



LIVING IN THE SHADOW
OF THE EMPIRE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH DUNCANVILLE
WORSHIP SERVICE | FEBRUARY 2, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME

Rev. Rachael McConnell

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Brenda Everett

Leader: In times of trial and persecution,
when evil seems to triumph—

**People: We remember that our hope is in the One
who holds every hour.**

Leader: The world marvels at earthly might
and is drawn to fleeting authority.

**People: But we stand firm
in the eternal sovereignty of our God.**

Leader: “If anyone has an ear, let him hear”:
faith calls us to endure.

**People: We hear, we believe,
and we trust in the name above all names.**

Leader: Come, then, let us worship the Almighty,
who reigns over all.

**People: We proclaim His power and love,
and bow only before our Savior and King.**

PRAISE & WORSHIP: AGNUS DEI

Alleluia, Alleluia For the Lord God Almighty reigns
Alleluia, Alleluia For the Lord God Almighty reigns

Alleluia

**Refrain: Holy, Holy Are You Lord God, Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb
You are Holy, Holy Are You Lord God, Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb Amen**

(REPEAT FROM BEGINNING, REPEAT REFRAIN)

PRAISE & WORSHIP: REVELATION 19

**SING 2X: Hallelujah! Salvation and glory, honor and
power unto the Lord our God**

**SING 2X: For the Lord our God is mighty, and the
Lord our God is omnipotent;**

The Lord, our God, He is wonderful
Hallelujah! Salvation and glory, honor and power unto
the Lord our God

For the Lord our God is mighty, and the Lord our God
is omnipotent

The Lord, our God, He is wonderful

All praises be to the King of Kings and the Lord of
Lords, He is wonderful

All praises be to the King of Kings (Hallelujah,
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah)

And the Lord of Lords (Hallelujah, hallelujah) He is
wonderful

REPEAT AS DIRECTED (All parts at the same time):

**ALTOS: All praises be to the King of Kings and the
Lord of Lords, He is wonderful**

SOPRANOS: Hallelujah! Hallelujah, hallelujah,

hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, He is wonderful
MEN: Hallelujah! Salvation and glory, honor and power;
He is wonderful

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Brenda Everett

Merciful God, We come before You in humility, confessing our tendency to be swayed by the world's fleeting power and influence. We acknowledge that we have too often been awed by earthly authorities rather than walking in awe of Your eternal sovereignty. Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have bowed to comfort, convenience, or human approval instead of bowing before You alone.

When we have allowed fear to guide our hearts, when we have faltered in our trust in you and when we have been distracted by false promises, have mercy on us. Remind us that our hope is firmly rooted in the Lamb who was slain.

Cleanse us, renew us, and draw us close to You. Fill us with courage to stand in truth and love—knowing that we are sealed by Your Spirit and sustained by Your grace. We pray all this in the powerful name of Jesus, our Savior and King.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jeff Thorpe

SONG: WORTHY IS THE LAMB

Thank you for the cross, Lord,
thank you for the price You paid
Bearing all my sin and shame, in love You came
And gave amazing grace

Thank you for the love, Lord,
thank you for the nail pierced hands
Washed me in Your cleansing flow, now all I know
Your forgiveness and embrace

CHORUS:

**Worthy is the Lamb, seated on the throne
Crown You now with many crowns,
You reign victorious
High and lifted up, Jesus Son of God
The Treasure of Heaven crucified
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb**

(REPEAT FROM BEGINNING, then SING CHORUS)

Worthy is the Lamb

OFFERING

ANTHEM: HIGH AND LIFTED UP

SCRIPTURE READING

Brenda Everett
Revelation 13:1-10

Then I saw a beast rising up out of the sea. It had seven heads and ten horns, with ten crowns on its horns. And written on each head were names that blasphemed God.

This beast looked like a leopard, but it had the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion! And the dragon gave the beast his own power and throne and great authority. I saw that one of the heads of the beast seemed wounded beyond recovery—but the fatal wound was healed! The whole world marveled at this miracle and gave allegiance to the beast. They worshiped the dragon for giving the beast such power, and they also worshiped the beast. “Who is as great as the beast?” they exclaimed. “Who is able to fight against him?”

Then the beast was allowed to speak great blasphemies against God. And he was given authority to do whatever he wanted for forty-two months. And he spoke terrible words of blasphemy against God, slandering his name and his dwelling—that is, those who dwell in heaven. And the beast was allowed to wage war against God’s holy people and to conquer them. And he was given authority to rule over every tribe and people and language and nation. And all the people who belong to this world worshiped the beast. They are the ones whose names were not written in the Book of Life that belongs to the Lamb who was slaughtered before the world was made.

Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand. Anyone who is destined for prison will be taken to prison. Anyone destined to die by the sword will die by the sword. This means that God’s holy people must endure persecution patiently and remain faithful.

SERMON

Rev. Rachael McConnell
“Living in the Shadow of the Empire”

PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE LORD'S SUPPER

SONG: THANK YOU JESUS

Thank You, Jesus, for finding me
Like a good shepherd, Your mercy leads
Back to Your arms, where I'm meant to be
So I thank You, Jesus, for finding me

Thank You, Jesus, for saving me
You took my place on that cursed tree
Died for sinners, but rose as a king
So I thank You, Jesus, for saving me

REFRAIN: Oh, it's only because of all You've done
That I can be called a friend of God
Oh, beautiful Savior, what else can I do
But lift up my voice and say thank You

So thank You, Jesus, for loving me
Shame lost its hold when You set me free
Every fear has to bow at Your feet
So I thank You, Jesus, for loving me (REFRAIN)

I enter the gates of the Lord with Thanksgiving
I enter the court of the Lord with praise (REPEAT X4)
(REFRAIN X2)

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH SERVICE

Our youth service is next week! Contact Katherine if your child wants to participate.

SARAH WOMEN'S CIRCLE

The Sarah Women's Circle meets on Tuesday, February 11 at 7 PM.

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Choir will next rehearse on Wednesday, Feb 12 at 7 PM.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, February 16 after the service. Potluck will follow.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Fellowship meets on Saturday, February 15 at 9 AM.

SERMONS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.FPCD.ORG/SERMONS.
THE "R" STANDS FOR HYMNAL FOR WORSHIP & CELEBRATION.
CONTEMPORARY SONGS ARE PRINTED WITH PERMISSION CCLI #882193.

WELCOME GUESTS AND VISITORS!

We want to get to know you! If it's your first time here, please fill out a visitor card from the seat back in front of you and place it in an offering plate, located throughout the sanctuary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHILDREN

Sunday school for adults and children meets at 9:15 AM in the Education Building. During the service, nursery is provided for ages 0-4 in the Education Building. Children are welcome to stay with you during the service, and are invited to come forward during the Children's Moment. If your child needs something to keep them busy, kids' activity boxes are available in the entry hall!



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Rev. Rachael McConnell, *pastor*

Connecting with God and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with the community