

# Welcome to Freedom



We are so happy that you have chosen to worship with us today. We hope you feel God's presence and the love of His people in this place.

If you are a first-time guest, ***please fill out a card in the pocket in front of you*** and don't forget to pick up your **FREE GIFT** at the Visitor's Desk on your way out. We hope you will join us for more experiences at FREEDOM!

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## Calendar

### Dec. 15th

Christmas Fellowship  
Breakfast (9 am)  
Worship Service (10 am)  
Baptism (12 pm)

### Dec. 22 - Jan 8th

Small Group Christmas Break

### Dec. 24th

Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service (4 pm)

### Dec. 25th

Merry Christmas!

## Upcoming Baptisms

**Sunday, December 15th**

Baptism is a beautiful expression of faith and a public declaration of one's commitment to Christ. We invite the entire church to join us at Fairhope Recreation Center next Sunday as we witness several acts of faith and celebrate God's work in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ. **If you would also like to take this significant step, please reach out to staff or complete the Welcome Card in the pocket in front of you.**

# Christmas Fellowship Breakfast

Sunday, December 15th

Bring your family and friends for a morning of fellowship, delicious pancakes, and an uplifting worship service! Come and enjoy great food while connecting with others and preparing your heart for a meaningful time of praise and worship. We hope to see everyone at 9 am for our church-wide Christmas Breakfast next Sunday!

## Christmas Offering

**Giving to the One We Celebrate**

This year we are reviving a Christmas tradition from the past by receiving a special Christmas Offering at Freedom. We all love to give people gifts on their birthdays; so it makes sense that, as we celebrate Jesus' birthday, we should seek to be generous and bring a gift to honor the One we love and celebrate this season. Envelopes for this special offering can be found in your seat back pocket of the worship room chairs.

## Birthday Party in Kid's World

Sunday, December 22nd

HEY KIDS!! Join us for a festive celebration at the Kids' World

***Birthday Party for Jesus!*** This special event will be held during our regular 10 a.m. worship service and will be filled with holiday cheer, fun activities, and the true spirit of the season! Bring a friend to enjoy crafts, games, and a heartwarming Christmas story that reminds us of the joy of Jesus' birth. We can't wait to see you there!



**“THE LORD IS WITH YOU; YOU ARE VERY SPECIAL TO HIM.”**

-- LUKE 1:28

# FEAR OF REJECTION

## Face to Face – Part 2

### (From Fear to Freedom)

Luke 1:26-49 & Matt. 1:18-19

December 8, 2024

#### 1. God loves to use the most unlikely people.

*In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.* – Luke 1:26-27 NIV

#### 2. Those who are favored by God do not have lives of unbroken happiness.

*...Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they married, he learned that she was expecting a baby. (She was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit.) Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to cause her public disgrace, so he planned to divorce her secretly.*

– Matt. 1:18-19 ERV

#### ➤ There is a high price to be paid by those who are favored by God.

#### 3. Everyone needs someone in their corner.

*A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth.... Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed."* – Luke 1:39-40 & 42 NLT

- To be Christian is to believe in the God of the impossible and to belong to a family of brothers and sisters who are there when you need them most.
  - We must choose to belong and to trust enough to be transparent.
4. When people turn away from us, God draws near to us.

*The angel came to her and said, “Greetings! The Lord is with you; you are very special to him.”*

– Luke 1:28 ERV

*The LORD is close to the brokenhearted, and he saves those whose spirits have been crushed.*

– Ps. 34:18 NCV

*Yes, I am sure that nothing can separate us from God’s love—not death, life, angels, or ruling spirits. I am sure that nothing now, nothing in the future, no powers, nothing above us or nothing below us—nothing in the whole created world—will ever be able to separate us from the love God has shown us in Christ Jesus our Lord.* – Rom. 8:38-39 ERV



# FREEDOM CHURCH INTERNATIONAL

Loving God. Loving People. Serving the World.

**Website**

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**FAIRHOPE STAFF**

Pastor..... Mark Price  
 Worship and Young Adult Pastor.....Faith Chatten  
 Associate Pastor.....John Beck  
 Student Pastors..... Stone and Caroline Keener  
 Children’s Pastor.....Lyn Davison  
 Preschool Pastor..... Sabrina Ankerson  
 Recovery Pastors..... John and Salley Beck  
 Media Director.....Dave Wilson  
 Sound Engineer.....Nick Wilson  
 Ministry Assistant.....Joanna Sides

**NIGERIA STAFF**

Nigeria Campus Overseer.....Apostle Isaiah Kadiri  
 Sapele Campus.....Pastors Ezekiel & Favour  
 Lagos 1 Campus.....Pastors Alex & Favour  
 Lagos 2 Campus..... Pastors Francis & Perfect  
 Idah 1 Campus.....Pastors Joseph, Joel, and Simon  
 Idah 2 Campus.....Pastors Phillip and Attah

**ELDERS**

John Beck  
 Nancy Emmons  
 Chris Perry

Mark Price  
 Wayne Smith

**TRUSTEES**

Mike Sappington (Treasurer)  
 Tony Maniscalco  
 Rick Miller

Randy Parkison  
 Ken Quattlebaum