



Baptism of the Lord
January 11, 2026
8 a.m. worship, Kerr Chapel

First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa

Called to make fully-devoted followers of Christ, inwardly strong and outwardly focused.



Pursuing Jesus

The Words of Preparation

There are two ways of projecting power: there is Herod's way, and there is Jesus' way. Those who celebrate Christmas in a world of power plays and power struggles near and far should read Matthew's story of Jesus, all the way from the early scene with angry old Herod, to the final scene where Jesus declares that all authority in heaven and on earth, in its radically reshaped form, has now been given to him. The modern church has been quite happy to think of Jesus having all authority in heaven. We have hardly begun to figure out what it might mean for Jesus—the Jesus of the incognito birth in Bethlehem, of the Sermon on the Mount—to have all authority on earth.

N. T. Wright

THE WELCOME

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

Please sign, pass, and return the blue friendship register. Visitors, please fill out a Get Connected card from the pew back and drop it in the offering plate to receive our E-News updates, and fellowship opportunities.

THE INTROIT

New Year Carol

George Lynn

Lucy Donohue, soloist

To all the children of God we bring, a good New Year's wish that we now do sing; God send you happiness, peace, and joy that no harm will e'er come to destroy. *Ring bells, ring out the old, the New Year now to us unfold; ring bells, ring out all fear, Oh ring us a Happy New Year.* The New Year comes as a little child, to a world that greets it as undefiled. We ask forgiveness for all misdeeds and God's blessing on all of our needs. *Refrain.* Praise God from whom the good blessings flow to His children living on earth below. Give thanks for all that has gone before and give thanks for the good that's in store. *Refrain*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 46:1-7

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear though the earth give way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;

He utters his voice, the earth melts.

The Lord of hosts is with us;

The God of Jacob is our fortress.

Therefore, let us stand in honor!

And let us worship God!

♦ **THE PRAYER OF ADORATION**

Elder Ginny Drummond

THE FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved You fully, and we have been unfaithful to the covenant You have made with us. Yet You are the same, yesterday, today, and forever. You are faithful even when we are unfaithful. Lord, we confess our sins and repent in humility before You. We ask that for the sake of Christ You would forgive our iniquity and remember our sins no more. Cleanse us by the power of Your Spirit, and write Your law on our hearts that we might walk with You, our Lord and our God... *(in silence)*

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel that in Christ Jesus there is full forgiveness of sins for everyone who calls upon His name! **Alleluia! Amen!**

♦ **THE RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE**

The Doxology

♦ **THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE****THE OFFERTORY 310**

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

ST. AGNES

THE SECOND READING

Matthew 2:1-18

THE SERMON

Threatened by Jesus

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

THE QUESTIONS TO THE OFFICERS

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge Him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through Him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our Church as authentic and reliable expositions of what scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the People of God?

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit.

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Do you promise to further peace, unity and purity of the church?

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love?

(Deacons), will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need? In your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

(Elders), will you be a faithful elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in governing councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

THE QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Do we, the members of the church, accept them as officers chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

Do we agree to pray for them, encourage them, to respect their decisions and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

THE PRAYER OF BLESSING

◆ THE CLOSING HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that Thou art; Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son; Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, Thou mine inheritance, now and always; Thou and
Thou only, first in my heart, High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun.
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O ruler of all.

◆ THE CHARGE AND THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

In Thee is Gladness

J. S. Bach

◆ Please stand

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Greetings in Christ!

We are glad to welcome you to worship! We are a community that seeks to lift high the name of Jesus and to serve the common good. If you are here for the first time, we pray that you will sense the presence of Christ and the warmth of this congregation. If you do not have a church home, we would love to welcome you; if this is your first time worshipping with us, please fill out a *Welcome Guest Card*, or contact Emma Myatt at 918-857-5652 or emyatt@firstchurchtulsa.org.

PARISH REGISTER

Prayers for Healing: Lisa Angleton, Jane Azlin, Steve Brill, Nelda Brown, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Beth Campbell, Gary Casteel, Randy Corelli, Teresa Corelli, B. J. Dollahon, Debi Foster, Janice Garbart, Jim Goodwin, Gaye Graeler, Rita Graeler, Patricia Hall, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Brenda Johnson, Don Johnson, Amy Lesh, Barbara Mace, Margaret Martinson, Sally McCoy, Ann McKellar, Jon Mercer, Barbara Mugge, David Osterholt, David Perkins, Penny Steinkuehler-Perkins, Carolyn Perryman, Mary Ruddle, Bob Shipman, Alex Smith, Andrea Smith, Jane Sneed, Sally Stewart, Marcia Tromp, Ralph Veatch, Gretchen Wagner, Susan Waldie, and Norma Wallace.

Sympathy and Prayers to: Lynn Fesperman on the death of his father, Bill Fesperman, on December 22; and to Bruce Blackman on the death of his mother, Mary Helen Blackman, on December 24.

WORSHIP NOTES

Services are broadcast on Cox channel 3 (each Sunday) at 11:00 a.m., 5:00 and 10:00 p.m., on the FPC Facebook page, or FirstChurchTulsa.org/YouTube.

For those who need hearing assistance in the Sanctuary or Stephenson Hall, audio headsets are available from the ushers. Also available are large-print hymnals and Bibles.

Our Letter of Blessing today goes to Bruce Blackman.

The flowers that adorn the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and memory of Jack and June Cease, by Terry and Cindy DeVore.

Thank you for your faithful support: Weekly tithes and offerings to the Lord may be given electronically in lieu of the offering plates at firstchurchtulsa.org, text 405-276-4141 or by using the QR code.



FIRST CHURCH UPDATES

Pastoral Prayer: Join us as we pray for the pastoral transition. To receive a weekly prayer prompt, please text @pastorfpc to "81010".

Prayer in the Chapel: Join together from 10:40 - 10:55 a.m. on the second Sunday of each month for prayer during this time of pastoral transition.

Need a Pastoral Visit? If you or someone whom you know is in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit, please contact Kathy Wilson at kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org or 918-201-1029. We no longer receive information from hospitals, so we rely on you to let us know.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Men's Monday Bible Study: Mondays, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., E103, an informal fellowship of men who want to grow in their understanding and application of God's word. During lunch they will read a book of the Bible followed by a Bible study.

Seasons Women's Gathering: Join us tomorrow, January 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Miller Library. Women of all ages are welcome to join us in this new semester as we explore the profound practice of prayer. Through monthly teachings and conversations, we will uncover the beauty and essential role of prayer in our faith journeys.

Precept Bible Study: Meet on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in E100. The class led by Denise Rounds focuses on what does it mean to be holy and to know and love God deeply? They will study 1, 2 and 3 John and explore answers to these questions as they consider the fundamentals of Christian beliefs.

Wednesday Night Downtown: Dinner starts at 5:15 p.m. with AWANA, *Pathfinders*, and *Exodus* starting at 6:00 p.m., and adult classes (listed below) starting at 6:15. (For more information contact Elizabeth Massey at edevore@firstchurchtulsa.org.)

Created for Connection: How to build Christ-centered, healthy relationships rooted in trust and love: led by Dr. Tom Philp, LPC and therapist at Stonebridge, in the Miller Library. Couples will explore God's design for healthy, life-giving relationships with family, friends, and romantic partners by integrating biblical wisdom with sound psychological insight. Through Scripture, discussion, and practical reflection, participants will learn how attachment, emotional awareness, boundaries, forgiveness, and repair shape our ability to love well. The class emphasizes Christ-centered relationships marked by trust, that weaves its way through each discussion.

Seekers Bible Study: led by Rev. Wambugu in room E104. Rev. Wambugu will lead us through the book of Esther, a Jewish woman who courageously saves her people from annihilation of the Persian empire by relying on God's divine providence.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Newcomer Gathering: Join us for coffee, bagels, and fellowship on Sunday, January 18 at 9:30 a.m. in the Miller Library. Explore what it means to become a member of First Church and learn about our family of faith! Ask questions, learn about First Church, and get to know other newcomers and members!

Chili Cook-Off: The annual Chili Cook-Off will be held on Sunday January 25 in the atrium following the 11:00 a.m. services. The event highlights the mission opportunities at Anderson Elementary School and Masterwork Academy. This year the funds raised will go toward offering food boxes from Food on the Move at the Anderson Community Nights as well as other Anderson needs. If you would like to enter your chili, stop by the Anderson table in the atrium or contact Cindy DeVore at 918-630-2636. Shirts will be provided for this year's cooks and crew.

Dr. Ivan Rusyn: Dr. Rusyn returns to First Church on Saturday, January 24, he will speak at 6:30 p.m. in Stephenson Hall and on Sunday, January 25 he will offer a presentation at 9:30 a.m. in Stephenson Hall and preach at the 8:00 Kerr Chapel and the 11:00 Sanctuary services.

USE YOUR TALENTS

Church Mice: Our church mice keep our Sanctuary and Chapel cleaned and ready for the Sunday services. If you would like to be a part of this group by volunteering either on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday by restocking and straightening the items in the pews, please contact Barbara Sanders at bsandersok@cox.net.

THANKFUL FOR THOSE CALLED TO LEAD: CLASS OF 2028

The Office of Trustee

Trustees are responsible for stewarding the care of all congregational investments, under the authority of the Session.

2026 Trustees: Joan Hoar, Don Seidel, Laurie Winslow

The Office of Deacon

The ministry of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed...or anyone in distress. (*Presbyterian Book of Order*)

2026 Deacons : *Anita Ewing, Bill Gent, *Ron Hart, Kate Kindbom, Gladwell Kisitu, Patrick Kuehn, Sarah Kunihiro, Matthew McAfee, Ann Gathuni Murage, Katie Ormond, Marsha Kimbrel Rose, and David Vaughan

What is the significance of this call for you?

I am humbled to be called to serve. I look forward to caring for members of this church knowing that as I fulfill my duties, my faith will be strengthened. I welcome the opportunity to learn and to join others in this common endeavor as we all seek to be Christ's hands and feet. *Anita Ewing*

I see it as a call to humble service, faithful leadership and a spiritual responsibility to the people of God who look at me as able to carry the role. It reminds me I have been called for a purpose and so I am challenged to serve diligently, listening patiently and putting needs of others before mine. *Ann Gathuni Murage*

I see becoming a Deacon as a wonderful opportunity to serve this church and, more importantly, to serve the Lord by contributing to the mission of the church as a part of the overall body of Christ. The trust demonstrated by allowing me to engage in this capacity is humbling. *Bill Gent*

Service is a big part of the faith journey. We are called to help feed the sheep. *Ron Hart*

My desire is to be a servant of the Lord through First Church, to our congregants and our community in any way possible. Leading with service is the true role of a deacon, and I look forward to serving with flower delivery, food coordination, and in whatever way the Lord has put forth for me to serve. *Kate Kindbom*

It's a humbling experience and a honor to be able to serve my community and be used by God in my role. *Gladwell Kisitu*

The church has increasingly become a larger part of my family's life, and it is very significant to me to be a leader at my church. It is a vehicle to service and an opportunity to impart. *Matthew McAfee*
As believers we are all called to serve but I am honored to serve First Church in this capacity for this season. I look forward to seeing what we can do together. *Katie Ormond*

Honor. Call for obedience to His will; joy in the opportunity to serve that which pleases Him. *Marsha Kimbrel Rose*

The significance for being called to be a Deacon is to serve and build a community through God, whether it is to feed the hungry, care for the widows or orphans, or to show love to those that are difficult to love. *David Vaughan*

The Office of Elder

As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they "lord it over" the congregation (*Matt. 20:25*), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. (*Presbyterian Book of Order*)

2026 Elders : *Dana Grogan, Patricia Hall, *Eric Janzen, *Gary Johnson, Charity Nyingi, Tom Philp, *Rick Priest, *Dan Richmond, Dylan Seibert, and Laura Stevens

What is the significance of this call for you?

I feel humbled to the calling of being an elder. It is my prayer that I'll faithfully serve our Lord and my brothers and sisters in Christ using the gifts that God has given me. *Dana Grogan*

The call to serve as an elder is humbling and thrilling! Both of my parents and my dear late husband served as elders here at First Church. I truly feel called, "For such a time as this!" *Patricia Hall*

To serve God; to serve the church; to offer my talents during this transitional phase of First Church. *Eric Janzen*

Each time I have been called to serve, my first reaction is "Me, really?" or "This is not a good time." However, God and this church have been so faithful to me that I inevitably say yes. Over many years, I have come to understand that God's plan is mysterious and His timing is perfect, and that I do well to trust in Him. *Gary Johnson*

Very humbling. It once again shows how God can work through anyone to achieve His purposes. *Tom Philp*

Most of my church life I have stayed in the background of church leadership. Since my wife's death in 2023 I have been prompted to carry on her legacy of service. I'm not sure of the role I can play or the impact I might have, but I trust it will be revealed to me as time moves forward. *Rick Priest*

I am humbled by the opportunity to serve the church in this critical time of transition. This call comes at a time that I believe I can focus on the work ahead. *Dan Richmond*

It's a great honor and responsibility to be called. I've said my Hineni and am ready to answer the call. *Dylan Seibert*

I take this calling very seriously. My desire is to serve with humility integrity, and compassion, while ensuring sound doctrine is being taught, providing spiritual guidance, and be a faithful steward of what God has entrusted to me. *Laura Stevens*

(*previously ordained)