



Credible Witnesses on the Road to Pentecost

*Called to make fully-devoted followers of
Jesus Christ:
Inwardly Strong,
Outwardly Focused.*

May 21, 2023
Kerr Chapel, 8:00 a.m.

*First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa
Born by grace in 1885*

Seventh Sunday of Eastertide

Kerr Chapel, 8:00 a.m.

The Words of Preparation

Surely it was not by chance that this chosen disciple [Thomas], was missing in the first place? Or that on his return he heard, and that hearing he doubted, and that doubting he touched, and that touching he believed?

It was by divine dispensation and not by chance that things so fell out. The mercy of God worked wonderfully, for when that doubting disciple touched his Master's wounded flesh He cured the wound of our disbelief. So this doubting disciple, who actually touched Him, became a witness to the reality of the resurrection.

Gregory the Great AD 590

The Welcome Mary Anne Marberry, Dr. Miller

(Please sign, pass, and return the blue Friendship Register)

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Call to Worship

This world is beautiful –but it is also fearful and uncertain. How should we step into this new week?

Our desire is to take the Lord at His word and trust in Him with our whole heart –in every circumstance! Proverbs 3:5

But how can we do this in the darkness and violence of this world?

Because the Lord is our Light and Salvation; He is the strength of our life –so of what, or of whom, shall we be afraid?

But there are great dangers in our path, are there not?

Indeed. Nevertheless, though a vast host of the enemy comes up

against us, yet our hearts shall not be afraid --for we put our trust in Him! He is faithful; He is sure; His grace is always sufficient. In every time of trouble, He is our refuge and strength.

Psalm 27, 46

The Introit: The Lord Is My Light

Frances Allitsen

Brad Morgan, soloist

The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom, then, shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom then shall I be afraid?
Though an host of men were laid against me, yet shall not my heart be afraid; and though there rose up war against me, yet will I put my trust in Him. For, in the time of trouble, He shall hide me in His tabernacle, yea, in the secret places of His dwelling shall He hide me, and set me up upon a rock of stone.

+ + +

Jesus said, "In this world you will have tribulation. But be of good cheer: I have overcome the world!"

Jesus said, "Satan has asked to sift you like wheat. But I have prayed for you."

Jesus said, "I will build my Church –and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it!"

"The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge!

Let us stand in honor, join our voices,
and let us worship God!

◆ **The Hymn** 260 A Mighty Fortress is Our God EIN' FESTE BURG

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration** Stephanie Madsen

The Old Testament Reading: Exodus 35:10-15, 36:1-3

The Story Behind the Font of Blessing

David Perkins, one of *The Master's Craftsmen*

The Litany of Dedication

Almighty God, from You is given every gift and talent we possess.
You bless us with noble work to do.

By Your Spirit you prompt us to offer our best gifts into your service.

For the heart and hands that crafted this font of blessing,

Good Lord, we thank you.

For the time spent in preparation, the efforts made over long hours
in the workshop, the working and reworking that was required,

Good Lord, we thank you.

For generations to come, may this font stand as a quiet witness of
Your grace and goodness, Your love and embrace.

Good Lord, hear our prayers.

We dedicate this font of blessing into your service. When people,
young and old, draw close to be baptized, remind them (and
all of us) of the apostolic good news:

***“When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, He saved us,
not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of His
mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life
through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Because of his grace He made us
right in His sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal
life.”***

Titus 3:5

May this font be a visible sign of that invisible reality: the blessing of
your true and real presence, your redemptive work on our behalf, the
infilling of the Holy Spirit, and the gift of your mercy and grace that
springs up to eternal life.

**Good Lord, Fount of every blessing: for this and for every blessing
we lift our hearts in praise and thanksgiving! Alleluia. Amen.**

◆ The Response

Come, Thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above; praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love!

O to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind our wandering hearts to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

◆ The Eastertide Affirmation

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved --if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day, and that *He appeared first to the women, then to Peter and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses*. We believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; He is our Lord and our God.

The Joys and Concerns of the Church

The Offertory

Lord Jesus, My Savior

Dale Wood

Lord Jesus, my Savior, with you I am blest, my life and salvation, my joy and my rest. Your name is my theme, and to you I belong; your grace shall inspire both my heart and my song. Lord Jesus, my Savior, you suffered for me, and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree. My heart shall rejoice 'til the end of my days, for yours is the glory, and yours is the praise!

The Gospel Reading John 20:19-31

The Sermon Credible Witness? Thomas

Thomas was not with the disciples when Jesus came. John 20:24

The Response What Peace is There? *[Just As I Am]*

What peace is there for tarnished lives, when love is challenged, hate survives? Remember in that Upper Room, Christ came and offered peace. His peace.

What peace for Thomas, full of doubt, with questions hedging all about? And yet within that Upper Room, Christ came and offered peace. His peace.

What peace for us who gather here, with all our questions and our fear? And yet within this quiet place, Christ comes and offers peace. His peace.

The Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

The Hymn 276 Great is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

◆ **The Postlude**

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Our Letter of Blessing today goes to *Dr. John and Beverly Parschauer*

Today

Today we celebrate the dedication of the new Sanctuary baptismal font, designed and crafted by Mr. David Perkins. The long-standing white marble font was donated by the Percy Collins Sunday School Class in honor of its late beloved teacher and elder. It was dedicated on September 27th, 1925 just after the Sanctuary's completion. It will continue to have a very visible witness just outside the narthex.

Young Adult Fun! Pickleball -- this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. Meet us at Tulsa Athletic Club on 11th street—all you need to bring is yourself!

You're invited to the 2023 Masterwork Academy Spring Showcase – Today from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. on the 2nd floor of the Bernsen. Our students have been working hard all semester to create an art show, fitness demonstration, plus music, dance, and theater performances for you to enjoy.

This Week

“Significant Essays” by C. S. Lewis. Dr. Miller continues his Pastor's Study today and each Sunday at 9:30 (Stephenson) and every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. (E104).

Praying to Pentecost - The prayer room, (204), remains open during normal church hours through Pentecost, May 28. Come and enjoy a special time of presence and conversation with the Master.

Mark Your Calendar

Pentecost! Next Sunday, May 28

The 11:00 Sanctuary and 11:00 a.m. Stephenson Hall services join together in the Sanctuary; TIF meets in the Great Hall.

The 8:00 and 8:30 services gather as per normal.

Following the 11:00 a.m. service everyone is invited to the **First Family dinner** in the FPC Courtyard. Enjoy the blessings of sitting at table together, sharing nourishment and deepening our friendships in Christ. Lunch is available, \$9 adults, \$5 children, \$22 per family. Reservations are not required, but you may pay in advance by the QR code below.



Glimpses of Grace – Join us on Sundays in June at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Hear four stories of how Jesus has been at work in and through the lives of those within this congregation. These stories will encourage you and enrich your faith.

June 4 - David Osterholt

June 11 - Julia Metcalf

June 18 - Solomon Tsuma

June 25 - Anna Milligan

College Update for June and July – All College Students are invited to join us this summer for UKirk Bible Study on Tuesday nights, starting on June 6 from 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. Dinner is provided as we enjoy fellowship and engage in conversation about faith and scripture. Follow us *@ukirktulsa* for more information or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at *jmetcalf@firstchurchtulsa.org*.

Summer Backyard Bible Study - Join Rev. Wambugu at his home for an in-depth Summer Backyard Bible Study to review and discuss the sermon series each Wednesday beginning on June 7 - August 9 at 6:30 p.m. Contact Laura Stevens at lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org for more information.

Precept Summer Bible Study - This is a 6-session study entitled *Breaking Free from Fear*. We will meet in E100, from 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m., June 6 through July 18, excluding July 4. For more information contact Laura Stevens at lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Ministry Opportunities

The Summer Choir Welcomes You! You are invited to add your voice to the Summer Choir for the 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service. The only time requirement is a brief rehearsal at 10:15 a.m. in the Choir Room. If you've always wanted to give it a try, here's your opportunity – please join us! For more information, please contact Gretchen Bashforth at 918-301-1012/gbashforth@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Young Adults – First Church is committed to cultivating faith within the next generation, providing a place for young adults to connect with one another and with the larger church. Find us on Facebook, Instagram at [@fpcyoungadults](https://www.facebook.com/fpcyoungadults), or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at 918-301-1030.

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Linda Barnett, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, David Dunning, Mary Ann Elliott, Marsue Gent, Gaye Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jan Miller, David Osterholt, Larry Osterhout, Rosemary Priest, Lyle Proffitt, Helen Quiring, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Marcia Tromp and Susan Waldie.

The Joy of Baptism: Last Sunday, May 14.
Callan Dean Crowe, son of Paige and J.J. Crowe
Charlotte Sutton Powers, daughter of Carly and Barrett Powers
Michael James Shelton, son of Grace and John Shelton

Worship Notes

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dee McQueen and Donna Bell by Clint and Christine McQueen.

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*.

Please notify the church if there is a pastoral need, change of address/phone number or other important family news. Contact Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029 or *kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org*.

Thank you for your faithful support of the ministries of First Church! Weekly tithes and offerings to the Lord may be given electronically at *firstchurchtulsa.org*, text 405-276-4141 or by using the QR code below.



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.

Instruments for Ireland: The Irish Mission team is looking for three or four instruments to donate to our mission partner church in Galway; Discovery Church. If interested in making such a donation, please contact Eric Baird at *ebaird@firstchurchtulsa.org* or Rev. James Estes at *jestes@firstchurchtulsa.org*.

THIS WEEK

TODAY 5/21

8:00 am Worship: Kerr Chapel
 8:30 am Worship: Stephenson Hall
 9:30 am Gatherings and Classes
 11:00 am Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall

Wednesday 5/24

11:30 am Pastor's Study, E104
 11:30 am Downtown Theological Roundtable, 206

Saturday 5/27

8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

TODAY: Adult Classes, 9:30 a.m.

Cornerstone	<i>Apostles' Creed</i>	E102
Covenanters	<i>Mere Christianity</i>	E101
Faith and Family	<i>The Heidelberg Catechism</i>	Prayer Room
Forum	<i>Soul Keeping</i>	E200
Morning Glory	Mastering Your Emotions	B318
Pastor's Study 2	New Testament Overview	E104
Reflections	<i>King David</i>	E103
Shepherds	<i>Study of Elijah</i>	E203
Sojourners	<i>Study of James</i>	E204
UKirk	New Testament Overview	E104
The Vine	<i>Study of Jonah</i>	E100
Westminster	<i>The Greatest Commandment</i>	Tower Room
Young Adults	New Testament Overview	E104

SEEKING GOD'S SERVANT LEADERS

*After the pattern of the One "who came not to be served, but to serve."
-Matthew*

20:28

One of the most important privileges we share is to encourage gifted and committed men and women to serve the Lord in leadership positions. Thank you for taking time to offer suggestions to the FPC Nominating Committee.

ELDERS (THE SESSION):

Responsible for the governance of the church.

They provide leadership in all areas, including: Worship, Administration, Programs, Mission, and Ministry.

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