



Christ and His Church

- 1 Called
- 2 Connected
- 3 Covenanted
- 4 Commissioned

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

NOVEMBER 19, 2023
8:30 AM
STEPHENSON HALL
First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa
Born by grace in 1885

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Stephenson Hall, 8:30 a.m.

Words of Preparation

...from heaven He came and sought us to be His precious bride; with His own blood He bought us, and for our life He died.

The Church's One Foundation

King Jesus, (*the Bridegroom*)... is now at work by his Spirit and by his word purifying and beautifying her for himself and for her joy. John Piper

Prelude

Psalm 150 (Praise the Lord)

You made the starry hosts. You traced the mountain peaks. You paint the evening skies with wonders. The earth, it is Your throne, from desert to the sea; all nature testifies Your splendor.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Sing His greatness, all creation. Praise the Lord! Raise your voice! You heights and all you depths, from furthest east to west; let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

You reached into the dust, in love Your Spirit breathed; You formed us in Your very likeness. To know Your wondrous works. To tell Your mighty deeds. To join the everlasting chorus. *Refrain*

Let symphonies resound. Let drums and choirs ring out. All heaven hear the sound of worship. Let every nation bring its honors to the King; a roar of harmonies eternal.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Sing His greatness all creation. Praise the Lord! Raise your voice! You heights and all you depths, from furthest east to west; you distant burning stars; all creatures near and far; from sky to sea to shore, sing out forevermore. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Welcome and Call to Worship

Rev. Julia Metcalf

Song of Praise

Morning by Morning

Daily, daily I surrender; grace for today is all that I need. Surprised by a mercy that's new every morning. Awaken my soul to sing. Oh, awaken my soul to sing.

I will trust where You lead. I will trust when I can't see. Morning by morning, great is Your faithfulness to me.

Breath by breath, overtaken by wonder. One step at a time when I'm overwhelmed. Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. Awaken my soul to sing. Awaken my soul to sing.

I will trust where You lead. I will trust when I can't see. Morning by morning, great is Your faithfulness to me. I will trust with all my heart, You are good, You always are. Morning by morning, great is Your faithfulness to me.

All fear be reminded, my future is secure. My Father has spoken and He keeps His every word. *Refrain*

First Reading

Ezekiel 16:8-14

Elder Rusty Gaddy

Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in Your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Response to Confession I Am Your Beloved

I've heard the accusation, and I've heard the propaganda; I've heard the lies they whispered to my soul; that I have been

forsaken and I'll always be forgotten; No matter what I do it's not enough. But then I heard a voice as it opened up the heavens, reminding me of who I've always been.

I am Your beloved, You have bought me with Your blood, and on Your hand You've written out my name. I am Your beloved, one the Father loves, mercy has defeated all my shame.

There's no accusation or any condemnation when I look into my Father's eyes. They don't see my sin, they only see redemption; this is how my heart has been defined. I can hear a voice that is louder than the thunder reminding me of who I've always been.

Refrain

The One Who knows me best is the One Who loves me most; there is nothing I have done that could change the Father's love.

Refrain

Assurance of Pardon

He hath remembered His covenant forever, the word which He commanded to a thousand generations. (Psalm 105:8) In his great mercy and faithfulness, we are forgiven now, forever, and always through Jesus Christ. **We rejoice in this good news! Amen.**

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.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

Offering

Holy Surrender

As the bride awaiting her groom, help us prepare our hearts for You. Lord, purify and make us clean, that we may bow before our King; the very One who gave Himself for us.

You saw us when we were lost and alone, offered to give this runaway a home. You saw us as Your holy bride before the spear had pierced Your side, knowing we would cost You everything.

So, let your church bow down, laying down our crowns. For our Maker is our husband, the Lord of Hosts His name, our redeemer, Jesus Christ who came.

Mystery profound, that two become one; resurrected as the body of the Son. In the sanctuary of the soul, joined forever and made whole, behold our Lord has welcomed us home. *Refrain*

Holy surrender; we're now and forever Yours. Holy surrender; we're now and forever Yours. *Refrain*

Gospel Reading

Ephesians 5:20-33

Sermon

Covenanted with Christ

...in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water

by the word...

Ephesians 5:26

Sacrament of Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Song of Sending

God So Loved

Come all you weary, come all you thirsty, come to the well that never runs dry. Drink of the water; come and thirst no more.

Come all you sinners, come find His mercy, come to the table, He will satisfy. Taste of His goodness. Find what you're looking for.

For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us. Whoever believes in Him will live forever.

Bring all your failures, bring your addictions, come lay them down at the foot of the cross. Jesus is waiting there with open arms.

For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us. Whoever believes in Him will live forever. The power of hell, forever defeated, now it is well; I'm walking in freedom. For God so loved, God so loved the world.

Praise God, praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him praise Him for the wonders of His love. *Refrain*

Charge and Benediction

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Welcome to First Church! 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! For information, contact Patricia Hall (918-301-1028 or phall@firstchurchtulsa.org).

Today

Book Table Annual Sale: Today, from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the atrium. Visit the book table in the atrium and choose from an array of titles on sale for one to five dollars.

Young Adult Friendsgiving (notice the time change) today from **7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**, at Dan and Hanna Hutchinson's home (4043 E. 48th St.). Bring a dish to share.

Letter from Dr. Miller and Diane

It's impossible to convey the deep gratitude Diane and I feel for the holy privilege of sharing life with you these past 31 years. Our hearts are full. The unfolding events on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 29, included a service exalting Jesus, our Savior, followed by very special exclamation marks of grace and love. It caused the entire Miller family to both laugh and cry —out of a deep and abiding love for this dear community of believers. Thanks to each and all for your abundant grace and kindnesses over many years. We stand by, now, as spiritual cheerleaders —eager to watch this congregation grow in dedicated and joyful service to Jesus and the common good. With abiding love, Jim and Diane

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Cathy Akin, Jane Azlin, Adelle Beathe, Steve Brill, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Randy Corelli, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Judah DeSpain, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, David Dunning, Gaye Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, Brenda Johnson, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jon Mercer, Jan Miller, Jim Miller, David Osterholt, Bill Peacher, Shari Postier, Lyle Proffitt, Bob Pyle, Helen Quiring, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Marcia Tromp, and Susan Waldie.

The Sacrament of Baptism: Robert Clayton Holk, III, son of Jen and Clay Holk, and Mr. William Roger Martin, were baptized on November 12.

Worship Notes

Now Thank We All Our God! The symbols of blessing on the Lord's Table today are given to the glory of God and in grateful memory of Richard Halliburton, and Mary Ellen and Walter Esser, by Sherye Halliburton and family.

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 you have a pastoral need, change of address, phone number or other important family news. Contact Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029 or *kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org*.

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.

The flowers that adorn the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God in memory of Charles Crane, Ruth Crane Ferguson, C. W. Steinsiek, Mary Ann Steinsiek Rich, by Brett and Cheryl Crane.

Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to Carmelitti LeFlore who is celebrating her 100th birthday.

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.



First Church Updates

It is Stewardship Season! The Session is already examining the 2024 FPC budget. Thank you for taking the local church seriously and giving of your very best to the Master. In this transition time, your support in prayer and giving is vital.

Helping Hand Ministries has disbursed \$389,174, which has helped 2,985 Tulsa County residents through a difficult time in their lives. If you would like to donate, go to helpinghandministry918.com.

For information regarding the transition and the future of pastoral leadership, check out the website at firstchurchtulsa.org and look for the highlighted word “transition”. If you have questions, concerns, or comments, please don’t hesitate to reach out to any of the members of the Transition Team by sending your inquiries to FPCTransition@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Pastoral Prayer: Join us as we pray for the pastoral transition. If you’re interested in receiving a weekly prayer prompt, please text [@pastorfpcc](https://www.instagram.com/pastorfpcc) to “81010”.

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.instagram.com/fpcyoungadults) or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at 918-301-1030.

Events This Week

NO Wednesday Night Downtown this week! Classes resume on November 29.

Dinner at 5:15 p.m. in Stephenson Hall – Class starts at 6:15 p.m.

Seekers Bible Study, room E104 - Rev. Wambugu

6 Great Dates, room E103 - Jerry and Anne McCoy, and Rev. Dan Hutchinson

Jesus, the Light of the World, room E100 - Duff Points

On Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23, we gather in the Chapel at 11:00 a.m. for worship, followed by a traditional Thanksgiving meal in Stephenson Hall. This event is hosted by the Deacons for First Church members who don't have family nearby. Guests are welcome. Although there is no cost for this meal, your RSVP is important to ensure there is enough food for all. Register by clicking the QR code below by Sunday, November 19.



Thanksgiving Meal giveaway – First Baptist Church North Tulsa (1414 N. Greenwood Ave) will be handing out free hot Thanksgiving meals to go from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. It will be a drive-up-drive-through event on the South parking lot.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday School - Rev. Dan Hutchinson will teach on November 27, December 4, and 11. His topic will focus on what it means to be Orthodox, Reformed, and Evangelical. The lesson begins at 12:00 p.m. in Kirkland Library with an optional lunch at 11:30 a.m. in the Bernsen Reception Room.

The *Sing! An Irish Christmas* concert with Keith and Kristyn Getty is completely SOLD OUT! If you missed out on tickets but would still like to attend, we need volunteers. There are a variety of jobs available, both during the concert and as we are setting up during the day. If you are available to give a few hours of your time on Monday, December 4, please contact Gretchen Bashforth at gbashforth@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Mark Your Calendars with these events:

November 23	Thanksgiving Day Service, Kerr Chapel
December 3	Sing! An Irish Christmas Concert, Sanctuary
December 15	Celebrating Christmas Together
December 25	Christmas Day Service, Kerr Chapel
Jan. 15 – Feb. 22	January Series

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

TODAY 11/19

8:00 am Worship: Kerr Chapel
 8:30 am Worship: Stephenson Hall
 11:00 am Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall
 5:00 pm Choir Concert, Sanctuary

Monday 11/20

10:00 am Little Lambs, Wiseman Hall
 11:30 am Monday School, Kirkland Library
 11:45 am Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103

Tuesday 11/21

9:30 am Precepts Bible Study, E100

Thursday 11/23

11:00 am Thanksgiving Day Worship Service, Kerr Chapel
 12:00 pm Thanksgiving Day Lunch, Stephenson Hall

Adult Sunday School Classes for **NEXT** Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

<i>Cornerstone</i>	Heidelberg Catechism	E102
<i>Covenanters</i>	Driving Through History – Acts to Revelation	E101
<i>Faith and Family</i>	Teaching Kids the Core Beliefs of Christianity	Prayer Room
<i>Forum</i>	Who is This Man	E200
<i>Harbingers</i>	The Life You've Always Wanted	E202
<i>Morning Glory</i>	Confronting Jesus	B318
<i>Young Parents</i>	Guest Speaker	E205
<i>Pastor's Study/Foundations</i>		
	Letters of Paul	E104
<i>Reflections</i>	1 John Bible Study	E103
<i>Shepherds</i>	Jesus, The Light of Christ	E203
<i>Sojourners</i>	Exodus Study	E204
<i>The Vine</i>	I John	E100
<i>Westminster</i>	Maccabees	Tower Room
<i>Young Adults and Ukirk</i>	Discovery Bible Study	E201