



The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
November 2, 2025
11 a.m. worship, Sanctuary

First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa

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



Christ the True and Better David

The Words of Preparation

Do not say, "I do not mind a mere priest, if he is a celibate, and a religious (person), and of angelic life; for it would be a sad thing for me to be defiled even in the moment of my cleansing." Do not ask for credentials of the preacher or the baptizer. For another is his judge and the examiner of what you can't see. For humans look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.

Gregory of Nazianzus

THE PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Dan Forrest

Gloria Women's Choir; Gretchen Bashforth, director

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. Be my Vision, Lord.

THE WELCOME

Elder Gary Johnson and Rev. James Estes

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

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

arr. Dale Wood

Jewel Pierson, soloist

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care. In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepare. Blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours. We are yours; in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way; keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray. Blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray. Early let us seek your favor, early let us do your will. Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill. Blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

(from Isaiah 9)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. On those who dwelt in deep shadows—light has dawned.

Thanks be to God, who has not forgotten His promise to David.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given. And the government shall be upon His shoulder.

We come to lay our burdens down and take up His yoke and learn from Him.

His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

He is our hope, our help, our King.

Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end; seated upon the throne of David.

Forever He reigns with justice and righteousness from the right hand of the Father.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

Come, let us worship the Christ, the Son of David, the Son of God, the King of all kings.

◆ **THE OPENING HYMN 142**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

CORONATION

◆ **THE PRAYER OF ADORATION**

THE FIRST READING

Acts 2:22-36

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

As you were handed over to death by lawless men, so too the weight of our rebellion is borne by you:

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us.

Though the promise is for us and for our children, we have neglected the work of passing on the faith:

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us.

Though you call us to repent and believe, still we cling to mortal powers we can control:

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us.

You have poured out the Holy Spirit upon your people, but we have resisted the fire of your presence:

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us.

We are tempted to kiss scepters, coins, or boots—
grant that we would bow down and kiss the Son:

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us.

We name you both God and King, Jesus Christ, risen from the dead; Have your dominion in us.

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us.

Hail, Hail, Jesus Christ, for the head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glory now.

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us... (in silence)

◆ **THE RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE 149 The Head That Once Was Crowned**

ST. MAGNUS

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

When Christ had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time, He waits for His enemies to be made His footstool, because by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. Therefore, hear and believe that good news of the gospel, that in Jesus Christ there is indeed forgiveness for everyone who calls upon His name! **Alleluia! Amen!**

◆ **THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

◆ **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 BLESSING OF THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE HYMN OF PREPARATION

Healer of Our Every Ill

HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

(Choir)

Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow, give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.

You who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness; spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.

(Congregation)

Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow, give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.

In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is still unfolding, give us all your vision, God of love. Refrain

Give us strength to love each other, every sister, every brother; spirit of all kindness, be our guide. Refrain

You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of healing; spirit of compassion, fill each heart. Refrain

THE SECOND READING

2 Samuel 16:1-13

THE SERMON

Christ the True and Better David

Rev. James Estes

THE OFFERING

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

arr John Ness Beck

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever. Where streams of living waters flow, my ransomed soul He leadeth; and, where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth. In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me, thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy Cross before to guide me. And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever. Amen.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

◆ **THE CLOSING HYMN** 145 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart! MARION

◆ **THE CHARGE AND THE BENEDICTION**

THE POSTLUDE Toccata on the tune MARION Albert L. Travis

◆ *Please stand*

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PARISH REGISTER

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

Sympathies and Prayers to: Brandon Evans on the death of his mother, Linda Evans, on October 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 Letters of Blessing today go to Brandon Evans.

The flowers that adorn the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Dr. Leonard E. Eames, by Jean A. Eames.

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.

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.

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 Instagram at [@fpcyoungadults](https://www.instagram.com/fpcyoungadults) or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at 918-301-1030.

HAPPENING TODAY

2026 Stewardship Campaign - Live Gratefully. Give Intentionally: For 140 years, First Church has been blessed by the faithful gifts of those who came before us—laying a foundation of ministry, mission, and worship that continues to shape lives today. As we look ahead, we embrace the call to grateful living and intentional giving, recognizing that every gift is an expression of gratitude to God and a commitment to His work. This year, our goal is to welcome 40 new givers who will join in building upon this legacy, ensuring that the next generation experiences the same grace and generosity that have sustained us for more than a century. Every gift counts, no matter the amount. Together, we honor the past and invest in the future. Will you join us? Make your pledge today at FirstChurchTulsa.org/Stewardship26 or scan the QR code provided. Your intentional gift helps us continue this story of faith and generosity.



The Guild of Intercessors is updating its Armed Forces Prayer List. If you would like the Guild to pray for a loved one or friend who is on active duty, please contact either of these Guild members by November 6: Paula Peterson at 918-296-5548/mandppeterson@msn.com or Monte Prater at 918-605-9719/monteprater@aol.com.

Pastor's Study (Foundations): Sunday mornings, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in room E104. We will discuss the historical, theological, and literary nature of Genesis and how this first book of the Bible sets the stage for everything to come. All are welcome!

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.

Precept Bible Study: Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., E100, led by Denise Rounds; 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

Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m. (dinner) in Stephenson Hall

Children and Youth Classes start at 6:00 p.m. and Adults at 6:15 p.m.

C. S. Lewis, *The Chronicles of Narnia* (and other fictional works) will take the week off and reconvene on November 12.

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

Courage, Dear Heart...Stories of Heroic Sacrifice and Surrender to Jesus: room E102, led by James Estes, this class will journey through the stories of men and women who cried out to God – and followed Him when He answered. Their lives, drawn from the *Christian Heroes Then and Now* series, are testimonies of contagious courage and sacred surrender.

Courage, Dear Heart...Stories of Heroic Sacrifice and Surrender to Jesus: Class led by Rev. James Estes on Wednesdays, at 11:30 a.m. in room E102. In this inspiring class, we'll journey through the stories of men and women who cried out to God—and followed Him when He answered. Their lives, drawn from the *Christian Heroes Then and Now* series, are testimonies of contagious courage and sacred surrender. Click the QR code to reserve your box lunch.



Hearts for the Lord: Thursdays, 10:00 a.m., E313, this class will be studying *None Like Him: 10 Ways We are Different From God* by Jen Wilkins. The study teaches how to become articulate and committed followers of Christ, with a clear understanding of why they believe what they believe, grounded in the Word of God.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Camp Loughridge Fundraiser, Boots and BBQ: Help support Camp Loughridge by attending the Boots and BBQ on Saturday, November 8 at 6:00 p.m. at Camp Loughridge. There will be a live auction, raffles and a silent desert auction. To purchase your ticket go to weblink.donorperfect.com/BootsandBBQ.

Grief Share: The holiday season can be a very difficult time for people who are grieving the loss of a loved one. On Saturday, November 8, from 10:00 a.m. to noon in room E104, the *GriefShare* team will be offering a one-time session that focuses on how to negotiate this difficult time of year. The cost for the class is \$12 which will be collected at the session. A booklet, coffee, water and snacks will be provided. Please register by going to griefshare.org and clicking on "Find a Group" or contact Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029.

Book Table Sale: Visit the book table in the atrium on Sundays, November 9 and 16 at 8:00 a.m. to choose from an array of titles on sale.

Lunch and Learn: a series of programs focusing on issues for retirement-agers, this month's program will feature nutritionist Patty Lawson. She will be sharing ideas on how to stay healthy through good nutrition. Join us on Monday, November 10 at noon in Room E104. To register for the class and sign up for lunch (\$7), please contact Kathy Wilson at kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org/918-301-1029. Payment will also be taken at the door.



Spiritual Disciplines Retreat: Join us on Saturday, November 15 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 at Camp Loughridge Lodge for a quiet day of reflection with Rev. Julia Metcalf while studying God's word in a beautiful setting. The cost is \$10 and includes breakfast and lunch.

Music Lovers! Don't miss the annual Fall Concert presented by the Chancel Choir and orchestra, including the much-loved *Gloria* by Antonio Vivaldi, Sunday, November 16, 5:00 p.m., reception following.

USE YOUR TALENTS

Join our TV Ministry Team: Gain valuable video and broadcast experience while helping us reach thousands of TV and internet viewers each week. We're looking for students and adults to volunteer in this ministry. For more information, contact Alex Pennell, TV/Video Manager, at 314-607-1032.

The Presbyterian Women's November Mission is the Coffee Bunker, non-profit organization founded in Tulsa. Please consider donating funds which will be used to prepare holiday meals for veterans, active duty, National Guard, Reservists and their families who rely on support from the Coffee Bunker. Cash or check donations may be placed in the PW mission acrylic donation box located in the atrium on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings throughout the month of November.

Become a mentor to new First Church members: Help new members feel welcomed and connected to First Church! We have launched a mentorship program, pairing each new member with someone to walk alongside them for six months. As a mentor, you will greet them on Sundays and connect with them once a month. Contact Emma Myatt at emyatt@firstchurchtulsa.org to sign up.



Come, Grow Your Faith!

TODAY 11/2

8:00 am	Worship: Kerr Chapel
8:45 am	Rejoice Ringers, 309
8:30 am	Worship: Stephenson Hall
9:15 am	First Church Choristers, 308
11:00 am	Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson Hall and Great Hall

Monday 11/3

12:00 pm	Men's Monday Bible Study, E103
7:00 pm	Overtone Rehearsal, 309

Tuesday 11/4

9:30 am	Precept Bible Study, E100
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Wednesday 11/5

11:30 am	Courage, Dear Heart, E102
5:15 pm	Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
5:00 pm	Youth Praise Band, and Celebration Singers, Powerhouse
5:45 pm	Gloria Women's Choir, 308
6:00 pm	Awana, POW, Amass Exodus
6:15 pm	Adult Classes
6:30 pm	Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Thursday 11/6

10:00 am	Hearts for the Lord, E313
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Saturday 11/8

8:45 am	Before the Rooster Crows
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Adult Sunday School Classes at 9:30 a.m., November 9

Cornerstone	<i>Gospel of John</i>	E102
Covenanters	<i>Simply Christian</i>	E101
Faith and Family	<i>Book of John</i>	206
Foundations	<i>Genesis</i>	E104
Harbingers	<i>Heidelberg Catechism</i>	E202
Morning Glory	Prayer and Sermon Texts	B318
Reflections	<i>Gospel of Mark</i>	E103
Shepherds	<i>Book of Joshua</i>	E203
Sojourners	<i>Attributes of God</i>	E204
Sowers	<i>Series by Dr. John Lennox</i>	E205
The Vine	<i>Gospel of Mark</i>	E100
UKirk	Women of the Bible	E201
Westminster Forum	Jesus' words in the Gospel of Matthew	E200