



## ***Christ and His Church***

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

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

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***Christ the King***  
NOVEMBER 26, 2023  
8:30 AM  
STEPHENSON HALL  
*First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa*  
*Born by grace in 1885*

# ***Christ the King***

*Stephenson Hall, 8:30 a.m.*

## **Words of Preparation**

Scatter as widely as ever you can the blessing which you get for yourself; the moment you find the light, and realize that the world is in the dark, run away with your match, and lend somebody else a light. Charles Spurgeon

## **Prelude**

God is on the Throne

Why should I worry? Why should I fear? Why should I run when Jesus is here? I'm safe in His arms. Safe in His heart. Nothing can take me away from His love.

*God is on the throne. He reigns forevermore. Just think about it. Just think about it. God is always good. He loves like a father should. Just think about it. Just think about it.*

When I am anxious, when I'm afraid, I find strength when I call on His Name. I'm safe in His arms. Safe in His heart. Nothing can take me away from His love. He's the King of power. The King of kings. He is the Lord over everything. To Him be the glory, the honor and praise, forever and ever, amen, always. *Refrain*

Hallelujah, He reigns. Hallelujah, He saves. Hallelujah, always. He's never gonna let me down. *Refrain*

## **Welcome**

Rev. Julia Metcalf

## **Call to Worship**

In worship, we come to shut out the shouting and rushing of our world.

**We seek the joy of Christ to renew our patience.**

As we pray, we search for a different way of being.

**We seek the compassion of Christ to renew our gentleness.**

We honor the word of God, to show us the path to follow.

**We seek the teaching of Christ to renew our faithfulness.**

In worship, we grow to shut down the hostile priorities of our world.

**We receive the love of Christ to make us whole.**

## **Song of Praise**

King of Kings

In the darkness we were waiting, without hope, without light, 'til from Heaven You came running; there was mercy in Your eyes. To fulfil the law and prophets, to a virgin came the Word. From a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt.

*Praise the Father, praise the Son, praise the Spirit, three in one. God of Glory, Majesty, praise forever to the King of Kings.*

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost. To redeem the whole creation, You did not despise the cross. For even in Your suffering, You saw to the other side. Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus, for our sake You died. *Refrain*

And the morning that You rose all of heaven held its breath, 'til that stone was moved for good, for the Lamb had conquered death. And the dead rose from their tombs, and the angels stood in awe, for the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored.

And the Church of Christ was born, then the Spirit lit the flame. Now this Gospel truth of old shall not kneel, shall not faint. By His blood and in His Name, in His freedom I am free for the love of Jesus Christ, who has resurrected me. *Refrain*

## **First Reading**

Psalm 32

Elder Rusty Gaddy

## **Prayer of Confession**

Reconciling God, we confess before you now that we are a people in need of renewal. 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. We name before you now our unworthy desires, that these may pass away from us. Renew in us, a faithful heart. We name before you now our selfish apathy, that this may pass away from us. Renew in us, a generous spirit. We name before you now our distractions and despair, that these may pass away from us. Renew in us, a hopeful heart and turn us closer to you. *(in silence)*

### **Response to Confession**      Boldly I Approach

By grace alone, somehow I stand where even angels fear to tread; invited by redeeming love, before the throne of God above. He pulls me close with nail-scarred hands, into His everlasting arms.

When condemnation grips my heart and Satan tempts me to despair, I hear the voice that scatters fear; The Great I Am, The Lord, is here. O, praise the One who fights for me and shields my soul eternally.

*Boldly, I approach Your throne; blameless now, I'm running home; by Your blood I come, welcomed as Your own, into the arms of Majesty.*

Behold the bright and risen Son, more beauty than this world has known; I'm face to face with Love Himself; His perfect spotless righteousness. A thousand years, a thousand tongues are not enough to sing His praise. *Refrain*

This is the art of celebration, knowing we're free from condemnation; O, praise the One; praise the One, who made an end to all my sin! *Refrain*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

We receive from God this promise of grace — be reconciled to God. For our sake, he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we are forgiven. For in Christ, there is a new creation:

everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! **Our sins are forgiven and we are reconciled to God through Christ. Thanks be to God. 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**      Praise to the Lord the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, The Almighty, the King of creation. O my soul, praise Him for He is thy health and salvation. All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near. Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things, so wondrously reigneth. Shelters thee under His wings, yet so gently sustaineth. Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee. Surely His goodness and mercy, here, daily attend thee. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, if with His love, He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him. All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him. Let the Amen sound from His people again; Gladly, for aye we adore Him.

**Second Reading**                      2 Corinthians 5:16-21

**Sermon**                                      Commissioned for Christ

*We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20*

**Sacrament of Communion**

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

**Prayer of People and the Lord's Prayer**

**Song of Sending**                      There is a Name

There is a Name, who reigns without contention, whose power can't be questioned or contained. With humble fame, He rules the earth and heavens, His glory knows no measure or refrain, and it's bursting past the border lines of space.

*Jesus, enthroned upon the praises of our hearts. Jesus, You're the King and You're the center of it all.*

There is a Name, reaching past the margins, calling sons and daughters back to Him. And as He saves, we can hear the roar of Heaven, as prodigals are coming home again. Oh the triumph of His name will never end. *Refrain*

For every eye will see, every heart will know, there is no name above the name of Jesus. Death could not hold Him down, no grave could keep Him bound, all sin and sickness bow to the name of Jesus. *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](mailto:phall@firstchurchtulsa.org)).

## 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.

## 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](https://www.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](mailto: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 Jim and Edith Favell and Carrie Bayouth, by John and Debbie Favell.

**Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to** Steve Brill.

**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](http://firstchurchtulsa.org), text 405-276-4141 or by using the QR code below.



## **First Church Updates**

**It is Stewardship Season!** 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.

**For information regarding the transition and the future of pastoral leadership**, check out the website at [firstchurchtulsa.org](http://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](mailto: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 [@pastorfpc](https://twitter.com/pastorfpc) 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

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

**Children's Ministry Family Advent workshop** on Sunday December 3 from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. at Camp Loughridge. Families with children birth through fourth grade join us for crafts, sleigh rides and Christmas treats. The cost is \$10 per family and you can register at *Advent Workshop 2023 - First Church Tulsa*.

## 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.

**Celebrating Christmas Together** – Share the love of Christ and the love of First Church by adopting an Anderson elementary student for Christmas. Your donation of \$50 will be used to fill a gift bag. Each sponsored student will receive a Christmas story book, game, socks, and a sweatshirt. The Celebrating Christmas Together sign-up table will be available starting November 26. Mark your calendar for Friday, December 15, as our congregation travels to Anderson Elementary to celebrate together. If you would like to volunteer, please scan the QR code in the atrium.



**Mark Your Calendars with these events:**

December 3	Advent Workshop, Camp Loughridge
December 4	Sing! An Irish Christmas Concert, Sanctuary
December 15	Celebrating Christmas Together
December 24	Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve Services at 5pm, 7:30pm, and 11pm

## COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

### TODAY 11/26

- 8:00 am      Worship: Kerr Chapel
- 8:30 am      Worship: Stephenson Hall
- 11:00 am     Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall

### Monday 11/27

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

### Tuesday 11/28

- 9:30 am      Precepts Bible Study, E100

### Wednesday 11/29

- 5:15 pm      Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
- 6:00 pm      Awana, POW, Amass Exodus
- 6:15 pm      Adult Classes
- 6:30 pm      Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

### Saturday 12/2

- 8:45 am      Before the Rooster Crows, E103

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

<i>Cornerstone</i>	Advent Series	E102
<i>Covenanters</i>	Driving Through History – Acts to Revelation	E101
<i>Faith and Family</i>	Advent Series	Prayer Room
<i>Forum</i>	Advent Series	E200
<i>Harbingers</i>	The Life You've Always Wanted	E202
<i>Morning Glory</i>	Advent Series	B318
<i>Young Parents</i>	Parenting with Love and Logic	E205
<i>Pastor's Study/Foundations</i>	Advent Series	E104
<i>Reflections</i>	Advent Series	E103
<i>Shepherds</i>	Advent Series	E203
<i>Sojourners</i>	Advent Series	E204
<i>The Vine</i>	Advent Series	E100
<i>Westminster</i>	Maccabees	Tower Room
<i>Young Adults and Ukirk</i>	Advent Series	E201