

*A Celebration of
Christmas*



*Christmas Eve
Eleven o'clock in the Evening
December 24, 2022
Sanctuary*

*First Presbyterian Church
Tulsa, OK*

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The Words of Preparation

There has fallen on earth for a token a god too great for the sky. He has burst out of all things and broken the bounds of eternity: into time and the terminal land he has strayed like a thief or a lover, for the wine of the world brims over, its splendour is spilt on the sand.

Who is proud when the heavens are humble, who mounts if the mountains fall, if the fixed stars topple and tumble and a deluge of love drowns all...but unmeasured of plummet and rod, too deep for their sight to scan, outrushing the fall of man is the height of the fall of God.

Glory to God in the Lowest, the spout of the stars in spate—where thunderbolt thinks to be slowest and the lightning fears to be late: as men dive for sunken gem pursuing, we hunt and hound it, the fallen star has found it in the cavern of Bethlehem.

G.K. Chesterton, *Gloria In Profundis*

Man's maker was made man, that He, Ruler of the stars, might nurse at His mother's breast; that the Bread might hunger, the Fountain thirst, the Light sleep, the Way be tired on its journey; that the Truth might be accused of false witness, the Teacher be beaten with whips, the Foundation be suspended on wood; that Strength might grow weak; that the Healer might be wounded; that Life might die.

St. Augustine, *Sermons*

The Prelude

Miniatures for Christmas

Dale Wood

Ron Pearson, organist

The Welcome

The Introit I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day Ryan O'neal

I heard the bells on Christmas Day their old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come, the belfries of all Christendom had rolled along the unbroken song of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head: "There is no peace on earth," I said. "For hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth he sleep; the wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to men."

Till, ringing singing, on its way, the world revolved from night to day, a voice, a chime, a chant sublime, of peace on earth, good will to men!

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Bill, Deidre, Casey and Colton Savage

The candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love are burning.

Tonight, we light the Christ candle remembering the words of gospel of John: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Christ is our light!

He has come to dispel the darkness!

Christ is our light!

He has come to bring light and life to all people!

Come! Let us stand in honor!

And let us worship God!

- ◆ **The Carols** 41 O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELES
22 Angels, from the Realms of Glory REGENT SQUARE

- ◆ **Passing the Peace of Christ** Rev. James Estes
The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

- ◆ **The Litany of Christmas**

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we have beheld His glory!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Jesus, Son of the Living God, splendor of the Father,
Light eternal:

Glory to You, O Lord!

Jesus, King of glory, Sun of righteousness, born of the
Virgin Mary:

Glory to You, O Lord!

Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Lord:

Glory to You, O Lord!

Jesus, Prince of Peace, Shepherd of souls, perfect in
holiness:

Glory to You, O Lord!

Jesus, Joy of the Highest heaven, and crown of all creation:

Glory to You, O Lord!

Christ is born! Give Him glory! Christ has come down from Heaven! Receive Him! Christ is now on earth! Exalt Him! O earth, join with the angels and sing to the Lord! O you nations, join the choirs of heaven and praise Him in joy, for He has been glorified! **Alleluia, Amen!**

◆ **The Carol** 31 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing MENDELSSOHN

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration** Sam DeVore

The Old Testament Reading Genesis 3:1-9

The Prayer of Confession Rev. Wambugu

Our Father in heaven, on this night, as we remember the birth of your Son, our Savior, Jesus the Christ, we also remember that Christ came, out of love and at great cost, to rescue us from death and destruction because of our sin. Lord, forgive us for having believed the lie that you are not loving or trustworthy or good. Forgive us for seeking abundant life apart from you, the one who made us and breathed life into us. Lord, thank you for seeking us out to save and redeem. In your mercy, give us new hearts and minds that we might love you and seek you. Fill us with your Holy Spirit and grant us the new life that comes through Christ, for we ask it in his name...*(in silence)*

Response to Confession What Child Is This

What child is this who laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping.

This, this is Christ the King whom shepherds guard and angels sing. Haste, haste to bring Him laud. The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spears shall pierce him through, the cross be born for me, for you. Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby. Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the Son of Mary.

The Promised Forgiveness

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: In Christ, all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him, He has reconciled to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His Cross. Therefore, we proclaim that there is indeed forgiveness for anyone who calls upon His name! **Alleluia, Amen!**

◆ **The Response of Gratitude** 40 Joy to The World! ANTIOCH

◆ **The Affirmation of Faith** Nicene Creed Rev. Julia Metcalf

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through whom all things were made. For us and for our salvation, He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried; on the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His Kingdom will have end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through His prophets. We believe one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Gospel Story, Pt 1 Genesis 3:14-15 J. P. Schemmer
Isaiah 11:1-9
Micah 5:2

The Anthem Of the Father's Love Begotten 13th century chant

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending He; of
the things that are that have been, and that future years
shall see, evermore and evermore! O ye heights of heaven
adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing; powers,
dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert
ring, evermore and evermore! Christ, to Thee with God
the Father, and O Holy Ghost, to Thee, hymn and chant
and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be: honor,
glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and
evermore!

The Gospel Story, Pt 2 Luke 2:1-16 Elizabeth DeVore

The Song of Preparation O Children Come

Hear the cry from Bethlehem, "O children come." Son of
God now born to men; O children come. Bring your
troubles, bring your fears, bring the needs that draw you
near, find the hope of all the years – O children come!
O children come!

Peace on earth good will to men; O children come.
Righteous rule that will not end; O children come –
Lay down all your bitterness, turn from sin's toil and
distress, find His grace and perfect rest – O children come!
O children come!

Where the Father's grace has walked, O children come.
Where you see the hurt and lost, O children come – Show
the mercy shown to you, gifts of kindness to renew, love
from hearts sincere and true – O children come! O children
come!

The Gospel Story, Pt 3 John 1:14

The Homily

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

What do You do with the Audacious Claims of Christmas?
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us... (John 1:14a)

The Anthem

On Christmas Night

Austin Lovelace

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the
angels bring. *News of great joy, news of great mirth, news
of our merciful King's birth.* Then why should men on
earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad, when
from our sin He set us free, all for to gain our liberty.
Refrain. All out of darkness we have light, which made the
angels sing this night: "Glory to God and peace to men,
now and forever more. Amen."

The Celebration of Communion

The Words of Institution

The Prayer of Consecration

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Solo

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam, arr. Mark Hayes

Rev. Julia Metcalf, soloist

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn! Fall on your knees! Oh hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born.

Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love and his Gospel is peace. Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise his holy name. Christ is the Lord; then ever, ever, praise we, his power and glory evermore proclaim.

The Candle Lighting

The Carol

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright, round yon virgin mother and Child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of
redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at
Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King; Christ the
Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

The Benediction

The Postlude In Dulci Jubilo

J. S. Bach

Christmas Day Worship!

Tomorrow: 11:00 a.m.

Refreshments following worship in the Atrium.

Welcome to the First Church community!

Merry Christmas! We welcome you on this holy night; your presence adds to our joy!

Jesus established the Church –and if you don't have a home congregation, we warmly invite you to explore the spiritual DNA of this church family -- represented here. We're a local expression of the Body of Christ, a Reformed and Evangelical Presbyterian Church, seeking to be faithful to the Lord of the Church and the apostolic tradition that we have received.

Consider worshipping with us each Sunday morning! Look at the service times (below) and resolve to lift up your heart and voice each week. Consider the opportunities to cultivate faith and friendships here.

Check out the ways you might serve the common good in Jesus' name. We're glad you're here and we pray every blessing upon you and those precious to you!

Sunday Morning Worship

- 8:00 a.m. Kerr Chapel (weekly communion)
- 8:30 a.m. Stephenson Hall (informal worship, weekly communion)
- 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary (Traditional, with choir)
- 11:00 a.m. Stephenson Hall (Contemporary, with praise band, weekly communion)
- 11:00 a.m. Great Hall, Bernsen Center (Tulsa International Fellowship).

Our 11:00 o'clock Sanctuary Service:

Broadcast, Cox Channel 3, live at 11:00 a.m.,
Rebroadcast, 5:00 and 10:00 p.m.

Streamed on Facebook, Youtube, *FirstChurchTulsa.org/YouTube*,
and the FPC Website: www.firstchurchtulsa.org

Growing Your Faith!

Adult Discipleship

- Sunday mornings: 9:30 a.m. --fifteen Sunday morning classes
- Weekday Bible studies.
- KGroups – Home-based fellowship groups.
- Wednesday Night Downtown – Full programming for all ages.
Optional Dinner 5:30, Stephenson Hall for all
- 6:00 AWANA Clubs for children through grade 4
- 6:15 Middle School (Pathfinders), High School (Exodus)
- 6:15 Adult Classes

- Pastors' Studies
 Dr. Jim Miller, Wednesdays at 11:30 and 6:15,
 Sundays, 9:30
 Rev. Dan Hutchinson, Sundays, 9:30
 Rev. Wambugu Gachungi, Wednesdays 6:15
- Quarterly spiritual retreats and other opportunities for prayer and spiritual formation

Tulsa International Fellowship – Join with others from across the world for a time of worship and fellowship each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. in the Great Hall, Bernsen Center.

Young Adults – First Church is committed to providing a place for Young Adults to connect with one another and with the larger church. Find us on Facebook and Instagram at *Young Adult Ministries@FPC* or contact Dan Hutchinson at 918-301-1040.

Inquirers' Class – An “No-strings-attached” opportunity to explore what it means to say “Yes” to Jesus, embracing His Church, learning about this particular family of faith. Questions are invited. Friendships are formed. Our next class begins Sunday, January 15, 9:15 a.m. (for four weeks). To register, contact Patricia Hall at 918-301-1028.

Presbyterian Women – Monthly fellowship and Bible study meetings.

Serving the Master!

Helping Hand Ministry – Helping to prevent evictions and keep the utilities on, Helping Hand Ministry provides funds to those in needs of a hand up. Come and see the good being done any Monday or Tuesday from 9-noon.

Guild of Intercessors – Intercessory prayer group that believes prayer is powerful and life-changing.

Faith Partners – A ministry offering compassion, resources, education and hope for those affected by addiction.

Deacons serving those in need – to the sick, the isolated and lonely, to any who may be overwhelmed or distressed – both within and beyond this community of faith.

Hope is Alive – Join the deacons in one of eight annual visits with the residents of Hope is Alive community. Come witness God’s power, quietly forging radical life transformation in those suffering from addiction.

Global Mission Trips – Serve Christ in the world through mission partnerships around the world. 2023 partner visits include a journey to Ireland in June and Kenya in July. For details, email Hannah (hdamron@firstchurchtulsa.org).

Works of HeART – Weekly art class for clients at the Day Center for the Homeless.

Masterwork Academy For Faith and Fine Arts – Training K-5th grade students, daily after school, in the joys of music, visual art, ballet, theater, fitness, and Bible study.

Marion Anderson Elementary School – There is always a way to be a blessing at Anderson, our partner in education school: be a weekly lunch buddy, help in the classroom, read to a student, or serve at a community night.

Children’s Ministries – Serve with us in the church’s Nursery/Preschool/Elementary ministries by teaching, planning, or rocking babies!

Telecare – Help us keep in touch with homebound members and those who need encouragement.

Music Ministries!

First Church strives to glorify God across the broad spectrum of musical language. From children's worship arts and seasonal youth ensembles to the adult Chancel Choir, Contemporary Worship Team, and TIF band, plus a handbell choir, and Gloria women's choir, there is a place for you to use your musical gifts at First Church.

Next Generation Ministries! *(Cradle to College)*

Children's Ministries - We are committed to coming alongside families as they raise their children in the faith of Jesus Christ. We focus on Spiritual Education, Worship, Service, and Fellowship by offering Sunday morning programming, Awana, VBS, and special events throughout the year.

FPC Youth - A community of Middle School (5th - 8th) and High School (9th - 12th) students who seek to grow in their relationship with Christ; encouraging one another in the day-to-day, and living as the Church here and now!

University Ministries – Designed to reach, teach, and love college-aged students throughout Tulsa so they may be life-long followers of Jesus Christ. Find us on Instagram at *@ukirktulsa* for more information.

For more information on any of the above, please contact the church office at 918-584-4701 or www.firstchurchtulsa.org.