

*“And she gave birth to her firstborn son  
and wrapped him in bands of cloth,  
and laid him in a manger, because there  
was no room for them in the inn.”*

*- Luke 2:7*



## *A Celebration of Christmas*

*First Presbyterian Church  
Tulsa, OK*

*Eleven o'clock in the Evening  
Stephenson Hall*

*December 24, 2020*

**A Celebration of Christmas**  
**December 24, 2020**  
**Eleven o'clock in the evening**

**The Words of Preparation**

In the Christian story God descends to reascend. He comes down;...down to the very roots and sea-bed of the Nature he has created. But He goes down to come up again and bring the whole ruined world up with him.

C. S. Lewis, *Miracles*

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:...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...

G. K. Chesterton, *Gloria In Profundis*

**The Welcome**

**The Introit**

I Heard the Bells

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

Duff Points

For the Light of the world has stepped into our darkness,  
**And the darkness could never, and will never overcome it!**  
He is Emmanuel, God with us.  
**He has come to seek and to save the lost; to forgive us from our sin,  
and to bring us into His family.**  
So come! Let us stand in honor,  
**And let us worship God!**

## The Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye  
to Bethlehem! Come and behold Him born the king of angels.  
*O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore  
him, Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heav'n  
above: "Glory to God, all glory in the highest!" *O come let us adore  
him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the  
Lord.*

True God of true God, Light of light eternal, He came into our world to  
save and redeem! Born of a woman, knowing every hardship.  
*O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore  
him, Christ the Lord.*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning: Jesus, to Thee be  
all glory giv'n; word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
*O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us  
adore him, Christ the Lord.*

## The Litany of Christmas

Dr. Jim Miller

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**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The herald angels sing, "glory to the newborn King. Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" *Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord! Late in time, behold Him come, offspring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity, pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel. *Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die. Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. *Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

## **The Prayer of Adoration**

Julia Metcalf

## The Old Testament Reading Psalm 118:14-29

### The Prayer of Confession

Rev. James Estes

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ You came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light but have loved the darkness instead. We have closed our eyes to Your glory in our midst and denied Your truth. We have rejected You, the cornerstone and attempted to build houses with no foundation. Lord, in Your mercy, have mercy on us. Forgive us our sins and renew our hearts, so that we may receive the fullness of Your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayers...  
*(In Silence)*

### Response to Confession

What Child Is This?

GREENSLEEVES

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 Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

*Nails, spear shall pierce Him through the cross be borne 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 a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby; joy, joy for  
Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

### The Promised Forgiveness

Friends, through Christ, God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son. In

Him, 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, hear and believe the Good News of the Gospel – that in Jesus Christ, there is forgiveness for anyone who calls upon Him! **Alleluia, Amen!**

## **The Response**

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come; let earth receive her King! Let every heart prepare Him room and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow, far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as, the curse is found!

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders, of His love!

## **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 Gospel Story, Pt 1**

Isaiah 7:13-14  
Luke 1:26-38

Kirstyn Taylor

## **The Response**

The Magnificat

Keith and Kristyn Getty

*Julia Metcalf, soloist*

My soul will magnify the Lord: I rejoice in God my Savior, in the wonder of his favor. For He has done great things for me; He was mindful of His servant. Every age shall call me blessed. The Hope of Abraham come in the giving of a Son; for He who promised is mighty in remembering his mercy. My soul will magnify the Lord for His grace to those who fear Him through every generation. The proud he scatters to the wind as the ruler's strength is broken, and the rich are left with nothing. The humble lifted high, and the hungry satisfied; our Portion and our Treasure, our Hope and Help forever. *Luke 1: 46-55*

## **The Gospel Story, Pt 2**

Isaiah 9:1-9

Sam DeVore

Matthew 1:18-25

## **The Response**

Joseph's Christmas

*Eric Baird, composer and soloist*

Oh, this was not my Christmas wish, to raise the son of the King.  
This Holy Child, this gift to man, of whom the angels sing.

This was not my dream of love; a wife, a life, a child.  
This is not the way it's done, but on us, heaven smiled.

What to think, what to think? The angel said, "Do not fear, do not fear all that lies ahead."

"She will bear a son, and you will call his name, Jesus. He will save you from your sins." He will save us from our sins. He will save me from my sins. Amen.

Son of man, but no this man, the one that He'll call dad.  
I'll give my heart and soul and strength, and all the plans I had.

What to think, what to think? The angel said, "Do not fear, do not fear all that lies ahead."

"She will bear a son, and you will call his name, Jesus. He will save you from your sins." He will save us from our sins. He will save me from my sins. Amen.

## **The Gospel Story, Pt 3**

Luke 2:8-20

## **The Homily**

A Night Like No Other

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

*And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. (Luke 2:9, KJV)*

## **The Solo**

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam, arr. Mark Hayes

*Taylor Conley, 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 praise we, his power and glory evermore proclaim.

## **The Celebration of Communion**

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

**The Words of Institution**

**The Prayer of Consecration**

**The Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

## **The Candle Lighting**

*Please make your way out to the courtyard for the lighting of the candle.*

## **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.

## **The Benediction**

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### **Welcome to the First Church community!**

**Since 1885, as the first church established in Tulsa, we seek to be faithful in service to Jesus Christ and the common good.** If you do not have a church home, we'd love to welcome you as a member among us. Look over the various ministries and mission opportunities listed below:

### **Sunday Morning Worship**

Currently, during the pandemic, we have three “in-person” worship services each Sunday:

- 8:30 a.m. Stephenson Hall (informal worship with weekly communion)
- 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary (Ensemble Choir)
- 11:00 a.m. Great Hall, Bernsen Center (Tulsa International Fellowship).  
(Both 11:00 o'clock services are Livestreamed)

### **Growing Your Faith!**

**Adult Discipleship** (call for brochures with more information):

- Fifteen Sunday morning classes for adults of all ages at 9:30 a.m.
- Weekday Bible studies.
- KGroups – Home-based fellowship groups.
- Wednesday Night Downtown - Varied classes offered for adults and AWANA clubs for children. Dinner is served at 5:15 p.m., classes are from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- Pastor's Study – led by Dr. Jim Miller, offered two times each week.

**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.

**Christian Classics in Lent** – Join us every Monday during Lent for lunch and study of classic Christian literature.

**Inquirers' Class** – An opportunity to explore what it means to join the church; to learn more about our particular family of faith; to ask questions; to enjoy a time of fellowship with others and meet some of our pastors. Our next class begins January 17. For more information or to register please contact Patricia Hall at 918-301-1028 or *phall@firstchurchtulsa.org*

**Presbyterian Women** – Monthly fellowship and Bible study meetings.

### **Serving the Master!**

**Helping Hand Ministry** – Serve the neediest Tulsans through a food pantry, informal counseling and financial assistance. Members typically serve one day a week for three hours in the morning (9:00 a.m. - 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** reach out to those in need – to the sick, the friendless, to any who may be in distress – both within and beyond this community of faith.

**Friday Food Distribution** – Consider joining us as we partner with First Baptist Church North Tulsa in giving away groceries to those in need. For more information, please contact Alison Biggs at *allisonbiggs@gmail.com*.

**Global Mission Trips** – Serve Christ in the world through medical mission in Mexico; disaster relief in the U. S.; evangelism in Romania; or encouragement and fellowship in Malawi.

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

**Masterwork Academy** – After school program which serves under-resourced children as they discover the joy of music, visual art, ballet, faith and fitness, and Bible study.

**Emerson Elementary School** – There is always a way to be a blessing at Emerson, our adopted school: be a mentor, help in the classroom, read to the students, serve at a school function, show the children at Emerson how much God loves them!

**Children's Ministries** – Serve the Master by tending his lambs at AWANA, VBS, Sunday School, etc.

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

**Hospital Chaplains** – Volunteers who offer caring visits when members are hospitalized.

## **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 Ministry** - We believe a child's sense of identity in Christ begins at a very young age and our desire is for them to understand they are a part of God's big story.

From Sunday's Discipleship Hour, Wednesday night AWANA and VBS to family events including Fall Festival, Advent Workshop and more, we are committed to partnering with families to raise up children who see themselves as part of the family of God – the Church.

**FPC Youth** - A community of Middle School (*5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>*) and High School (*9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>*) students

who seek to grow in 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](http://www.firstchurchtulsa.org).*

Dear First Church families and friends,

We're all aware of the increasing transmission of this COVID virus. And we all want to do whatever we can to diminish the risk for those who gather here.

As we make our way into our Christmas celebrations the First Church Session has enacted a "mask-always" protocol for events here at First Church, including worship.

It will be a great day when we can lift these protocols --but for now we ask you to abide by these expectations-- that we hope and pray will serve the common good.

Please help us with contact tracing and attendance by filling out the information below and leaving the program on the pew as you leave.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Member \_\_\_\_\_ or Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Seating Location: (Please circle where you are sitting.)

Front Left - Front Center - Front Right

Back Left - Back Center - Back Right

Left Balcony - Center Balcony - Right Balcony

or

going to the link: [bit.ly/fpcregister](https://bit.ly/fpcregister);

or

using the QR code below.



*December 24, 2020, 11:00 p.m. Worship Service in Stephenson Hall*

## **THE FIRST CHURCH PASTORS**

James D. Miller, Ph.D., *Pastor*

Daniel Hutchinson, M.Div., *Associate Pastor*

James Estes, M.Div., *Associate Pastor*

Wambugu Gachungi, M.Div., *Associate Pastor*



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