

*A Celebration of
Christmas*



*Eleven o'clock in the Evening
December 24, 2021*

Sanctuary

*First Presbyterian Church
Tulsa, OK*

A Celebration of Christmas
December 24, 2021
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: 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 split 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...For in dread of such falling and failing the fallen angels fell inverted in insolence, scaling the hanging mountain of hell: 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*

The Welcome

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

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

Jaclyn, Julia and Jeffrey Metcalf

The candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love are burning. Tonight we
light the Christ candle, the candle of the Messiah, Jesus; Emmanuel,
God with us. He is our hope, our peace, our joy, our love. He is the
King of Kings and the Lord of lords. He is the Word of God wrapped in
flesh and bone. He is the one who has come and the one who is
coming again.

The Light of the world has stepped into our darkness,

And the darkness can never overcome it!

He has come to seek and to save the lost;

He has come to forgive us our sin and bring us into His family.

So, come! Let us stand in honor,

And let us worship God!

◆ The Carol	41	O Come, All Ye Faithful	ADESTE FIDELES
	23	Angels We Have Heard on High	GLORIA

◆ **The Litany of Christmas**

Rev. James Estes

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** 40

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration**

Sam DeVore

◆ **The Old Testament Reading** Micah 5:2-5a

The Prayer of Confession

Rev. Wally Johnson

Most gracious and merciful Father, we confess that we have sinned against you. You come to us in love and humility, but we reject you and turn away. You come to rule and to reign with goodness and justice, but we would rather be lords of our own tiny kingdoms. You come to be our peace, but we continually choose that which leads to discord and brokenness. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us our sin. Come once again and give us new hearts that we might receive you and love you with our whole heart and mind and soul and strength...(in silence)

Response to Confession What Child Is This?

GREENSLEEVES

(congregation joins on verse 2)

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.*

*This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring Him laud, 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** 31

Hark the Herald Angels

MENDELSSOHN

The Affirmation of Faith Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him 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 in accordance with 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 no 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 is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

The Gospel Story, Pt 1

Isaiah 7:13-14

Casey Savage

Isaiah 9:1-7

The Anthem

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius

Choir

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse's lineage coming, by men of old have sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind. With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior, when half spent was the night. Isaiah 11:1

The Gospel Story, Pt 2

Luke 2:1-7

J.P. Schemmer

The Song of Preparation O Children Come

Worship Team

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 1:1-5, 9-14

The Homily

Glory to God in the Lowest!

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John 1:14)

The Anthem

Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven

Keith and Kristyn Getty

Jesus, joy of the highest heaven, born as a little baby under a wondrous star. Like us, crying, He takes His first breath, held by His mother, helpless, close to her beating heart. Jesus, laid in a lowly manger, facing a world of dangers; come to turn me, a stranger, into a child of God. Jesus, King of the highest heaven, learning to take His first steps that He might bring us life. Like us, knowing our smiles and sorrows, He showed the way to follow, a way that is true and right. Jesus, take away every darkness; steady my simple footsteps that I might, in Your goodness, live as a child of God.

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 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 Candle Lighting

Please make your way out to the atrium 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

Welcome to the First Church community!

We welcome you on this holy night and invite you to make this congregation your spiritual home! Why not 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 (communion)
- 8:30 a.m. Stephenson Hall (informal worship with communion)
- 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary (Traditional with choir)
- 11:00 a.m. Stephenson Hall (Contemporary with praise band, communion)
- 11:00 a.m. Great Hall, Bernsen Center (Tulsa International Fellowship).

11:00 Sanctuary Service is broadcast live at FirstChurchTulsa.org/WatchLive you can also watch later on FirstChurchTulsa.org/YouTube and on Cox channel 3 (each Sunday) at 11:00 a.m., 5:00 and 10:00 p.m.

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 youth start at 6:15 p.m. AWANA clubs for children start at 6:00 p.m. Dinner is served at 5:30 p.m. in Stephenson Hall.
- Pastor's Study – led by Dr. Jim Miller, *C. S. Lewis: Mere Christianity*
– led by Rev. Dan Hutchinson, *Old Testament Survey*

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.

Monday School – Join us every Monday starting January 31 at noon for lunch and the study of *Slow Faith: A Study in the Psalms* with Dr. Wes Vander Lugt.

In our fast-paced world, there is an urgent need for a rooted, attentive, unhurried spiritual life. As the church's inspired prayer book, the Psalms are the preeminent guide for this kind of slow faith, inviting us to participate in a slow story of a slow God.

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 to 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 Kenya.

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.

Marion Anderson Elementary School – There is always a way to be a blessing at Anderson, our adopted school: be a mentor, help in the classroom, read to the students, serve at a school function, show the children at Anderson 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 (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.

O Come, Let us Adore Him!

Tomorrow, Christmas Day

11:00 a.m. Chapel Service

December 26: Festival Sunday

One Worship Service: 11:00 Sanctuary

9:30 Pancake Breakfast

No Sunday School

December 24, 2021
11:00 Worship Service
Sanctuary

Please help us with contact tracing and attendance by filling out the information below and leave this page 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

or

going to the link: bit.ly/fpcregister;

or

using the QR code below.

