



Discipleship: Catching God's Vision

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

AUGUST 27, 2023
11:00 AM
SANCTUARY

*First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa
Born by grace in 1885*

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.

The Words of Preparation

When God gives grace, He does not reluctantly open a little finger and maintain a clenched fist full of gifts. I would tell you today that God's hands are nail-pierced hands and they are wide open. This fountain of grace is always pouring itself out with no limitation on heaven's side at all. Alan Redpath

The Welcome

Rev. Julia Metcalf

(Please sign, pass, and return the blue Friendship Register)

The Introit

Something for Thee

arr. Craig Courtney

Lucy Donohue, soloist

Savior, Thy dying love Thou gavest me, nor should I aught withhold, dear Lord, from Thee; in love my soul would bow, my heart fulfill its vow, some offering bring Thee now, something for Thee. At the blest mercy seat, pleading for me, my feeble faith looks up, Jesus, to Thee. Help me the cross to bear, thy wondrous love declare, some song to raise, or prayer, something for Thee. All that I am and have, Thy gifts so free, in joy, in grief, through life, dear Lord, for thee! And when Thy face I see, my ransomed soul shall be through all eternity, something for Thee.

The Call to Worship

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?

For from him and through him and to him are all things.

To him be glory forever. **Alleluia! Amen.**

Romans 11:33-36

◆ **The Hymn** 482 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty LOBE DEN HERREN

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration** Nicole Pugh

The Old Testament Reading Proverbs 11:24-26

The Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy holy Name, through Christ our Lord. Lord Jesus, in your mercy, hear our prayers...*(in silence)*

◆ **The Response to Confession** 428 We Give Thee but Thine Own

SCHUMANN

The Assurance of Pardon

So great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. Psalm 103:11-14

Friends, embrace this good news with all of your hearts: in Jesus Christ there is forgiveness –for all who call upon Him! Praise the Lord –for His mercy is forever! **Hallelujah!**

◆ **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 497 With Grateful Hearts Our Faith Professing ST. CLEMENT

The New Testament Reading II Corinthians 9:1-8

The Sermon Intentional Discipleship

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. II Corinthians 9:6

The Offertory Treasures in Heaven Allen Pote

Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust corrupt, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven; for where your treasure is there will your heart be also. Give unto God with cheerfulness, not of necessity or with regret. But give from within, from within your heart. Matthew 6:19; II Cor. 9:7

The Joys and Concerns of the Church

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

- ◆ **The Hymn** 555 Now Thank We All Our God NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT
- ◆ **The Charge and Benediction**
- ◆ **The Postlude** Improvisation on the tune NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

Today

A heartfelt welcome to each and all as we gather to worship in this House of Prayer. If you're here for the first time, we pray you'll sense the presence of Christ and the warmth of this congregation.

Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to Rosemary Priest.

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving honor of Denise Rounds by Phil Rounds.

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, text 405-276-4141 or by using the QR code below.



The Session has formed a Transition Team (Allison Biggs, Jim Diacon, Brett Crane, Stephanie Madsen, Urbanus Masaku and Gary Mathews) whose duties will be to prepare for Dr. Miller’s upcoming retirement. If you have questions, concerns or comments, please don’t hesitate to reach out to any of the members of the team or send an your inquiries to FPCTransition@firstchurchtulsa.org.

“Faith & Film” – An all-church, summer Sunday School class gathering at 9:30 a.m. in the Miller Library. This morning we continue our series on *The Chosen* –one of the most remarkable film series on Jesus and His redemptive work.

Episodes

Today	7 – Invitations 8 – I Am He	Elder Jacob Thompson
Sept. 3	Pilot – The Shepherd	Rev. Hutchinson

The Pastor’s Class: *Christian Apologetics* – today at 9:30 in E104.

Professor Jerry McCoy leads the class today on Dr. Rebecca McLaughlin’s book, *Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World’s Largest Religion*. Professor McCoy will also lead the Wednesday, Aug. 30. Please note: the Wednesday class begins at 12:30 p.m. instead of 11:30 p.m. E104.

Summer Swim – Today is the last day to enjoy the Camp pool for the summer. Bring your family to Camp Loughridge, today from 1:30 – 4:45 p.m.

Presbyterian Women’s mission project for September is First Church’s Helping Hand Ministries. This ministry offers assistance to Tulsans in need. They will be collecting full-sized toiletries, small bottles of laundry

soap, and toilet paper. You can leave these items in the PW collection bin, in the atrium on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Mark Your Calendar

Breakfast on Boston! – Mark your calendars for September 10 at 9:15 a.m. There will be food, fellowship, live music from Grady Nichols, pony rides and face painting. To prepay for meals and avoid the lines, click on the QR code below. Breakfast prices are adults \$7, children (4-12 years old) \$4, Free (0-3 years old) and families \$20. There will be no Sunday School on this day. You may prepay at the table in the atrium today and Sunday, September 3.



Monday School begins on Monday, September 11 in the Kirkland Library; lunch at 11:30 a.m. with the lesson starting at 12:00 p.m. Justin Schell will be teaching on the theme *The Kingdom of God*. Reservations and payment can be made by clicking on the QR code below.



Guys Monday Bible Study - Begins on September 11, at 11:45 a.m. in E103. Optional lunch available for purchase by reservation and payment can be made by clicking the QR code.



Precept Bible Study – This is an 11-week study on the Psalms and begins on Tuesday, September 12, from 9:30 – 10:40 a.m. in E101. If you want to learn more about how to praise God in the good times, lament honestly in the bad, and trust God through every season of life, this study on Psalms chapters 1-22 is perfect for you. Contact Laura Stevens at lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org for more information.

Watercolor the World - Join us in E104 for six weeks of creativity starting on Wednesday, September 13 at 9:30 a.m. Mary Lee Weaver

will be demonstrating how to create beautiful cards and bookmarks using traceable images, scripture and colored with watercolors or colored pencils. To register, please contact Laura Stevens at ljstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org or come by the table in the atrium today and next Sunday, September 3.

Wednesday Night Downtown

Wednesday Night Downtown begins on Wednesday, September 13, with dinner at 5:15 p.m. in Stephenson Hall. Class start at 6:15 p.m.

The Meaning Behind the Marquee meets in Stephenson Hall.

The First Church pastors will lead a five-week series on orthodox, reformed, and evangelical. These words speak to First Church's identity – who we are and where we come from. But what do they signify? What is it that we are declaring to be true about this community? This fall, we will be considering each of these words, the history and theology that give them meaning, and how they might shape our life together.

Seekers Sermon Series - led by Rev. Wambugu in E104. Join us as we study and discuss the sermon scriptures from the week.

Dr. Rebecca McLaughlin: *Four Things Christians Must Reclaim* - Join us on Saturday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. in Stephenson Hall to hear Dr. McLaughlin. Her first book, *Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World's Largest Religion* was named "Book of the Year" by *Christianity Today*.

Foundations Class (former Pastor's Class) – Class begins on Sunday, September 17 at 9:30 a.m. in E104. The class is open to anyone interested in studying the basic foundations of the Bible and the principles of the Christian faith. Rev. Hutchinson will lead the class on a deep dive into the letters of Paul, beginning with the book of Romans.

Helping Hand Golf Tournament: Monday, September 18, 8:30 a.m. at the Meadowbrook Country Club. Click on the QR code below to register

yourself and/or your team. Every penny is devoted to the most impoverished of Tulsans –through the efforts of our *Helping Hand* Ministry.



Save the Date!

Come and add to the joy! Mr. Austin Stember and Miss Courtney Miller cordially invite you (and each member of the congregation) to share in the blessing of their wedding, **Saturday, October 7, at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.** A reception follows in the Courtyard.

Ministry Opportunities

The Summer Choir Welcomes You! Why not add your voice to the Summer Choir during the 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service? Join us on Sunday mornings for a brief rehearsal at 10:15 a.m. in the Choir Room. For more information, please contact Gretchen Bashforth at 918-301-1012/gbashforth@firstchurchtulsa.org.

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.

Kindergarten Blessing

Every year we gift our kindergarteners with a Bible and encourage parents to read it with them. This morning each of our kindergarteners received their Bible, and we pray every blessing upon them as they come to know the love of Jesus.

Henry Campbell
Brekken Crowe
Carter Cunningham
Remington Dossey

Nate Njonjo
Magnolia Perceful
Lilli Rogers
Thea Rogers

Isabel Feamster
William Hill
Juliette John-Bowman
Nyla Kisitu

Olivia Seibert
Randall Trotsuk
Bennett Yost

Fourth Grade Bible Celebration

Every year we gift our fourth graders with a study Bible and encourage parents to read it with them. This morning each of our fourth graders received their Bible, and we pray every blessing upon them as they come to know the love of Jesus.

Emerson Austin
Alex Bundi
Allen Bundi
Ewan Cavin
Charlotte Foon
Inks Franklin
Ephraim Garrett
Paul Gitau
Helen Harrington
Heston Hawkins
Reaves Hawkins
Jasmine Kamande
Conner Kern

Jasmine Koori
Benjamin Madsen
Laura Masabarakiza
Pendo Matee
Isaac Mathu
Molly McCracken
James McQueen
Georgia Pugh
Declan Roden
Caleb Shelton
Hawa Waita
Ellie Williams

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Dwight Creveling, Beverly Dale, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, David Dunning, Mary Ann Elliott, Gaye Graeler, Gena Gray, Dana Grogan, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jon Mercer, Jan Miller, David Osterholt, Bill Peacher, Shari Postier, Rosemary Priest, Lyle Proffitt, Helen Quiring, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Shannon Thomas, 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*.

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*.

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.

First Church Cancer List – Do you or a loved one have cancer? Members of the Guild of Intercessors pray every day for those on the Guild's Cancer List. If you would like to add yourself, a loved one, or a friend or colleague to this confidential list, please contact Paula Peterson at 918-296-5548/*mandppeterson@msn.com* or Monte Prater at 918-605-9719/*monteprater@aol.com*.

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

TODAY 8/27

- 8:00 am Worship: Kerr Chapel
8:30 am Worship: Stephenson Hall
9:30 am Christian Apologetics, E104
 Faith and Film, Miller Library
 Faith and Family, Prayer Room
 Morning Glory Class, B318
 Reflections, E103
 Sojourners, E204
 Westminster Class, Tower Room
11:00 am Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall

Wednesday 8/30

- 12:30 am Pastor's Study, E104

Saturday 9/2

- 8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103