



Discipleship: Catching God's Vision

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

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023
11:00 AM
SANCTUARY

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

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

The Words of Preparation

Every Christian would agree that a man's spiritual health is exactly proportional to his love for God. C. S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

That the native language of love is lavishness these men do not seem to understand. William Hendrickson, *Mark*

The Welcome

The Introit

Take My Life
Randie Lewis, soloist

Craig Courtney

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee; take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee; take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King. Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold; take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my will and make it Thine, it shall be no longer mine; take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

The Call to Worship

I will extol you, O LORD,

For you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,

And you have healed me.

O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;

You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,

And give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger is but for a moment,

And his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may tarry for the night,

But joy comes with the morning.

Psalm 30:1-5

◆ **The Hymn** 464 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration**

The Epistle Reading Romans 6:1-11

The Prayer of Confession

Rev. Julia Metcalf

Almighty God our heavenly Father, through union with Christ Jesus, you declare us dead to sin and alive to righteousness, and you call us to walk in newness of life. Yet, we confess that all too often we continue to live as those under sin. We seek our own glory, we fail to love well, we are selfish, self-absorbed, and governed by our passions instead of by your presence. Lord, according to your great grace, we ask that you would forgive us, and that you would finish your work of new creation in our lives by the power of your Spirit. This we ask through Christ...*(in silence)*

The Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel: there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:1-2

Thanks be to God for His great grace! **Alleluia! Amen!**

The Response of Gratitude The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.

◆ **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 Time With the Children

The Sacrament of Baptism

Co-Clerk Joel Donohue

Owen and Hayden Hoppe, sons of Brian and Becky Hoppe

The Hymn 98

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

PASSION CHORALE

The Prayer of Illumination

The Gospel Reading

Mark 14:1-9

The Sermon

Love Made Visible

She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial.

Mark 14:8

The Offertory

Glory Be to God the Father

Michael Weisse

Glory be to God the Father! Glory be to God the Son! Glory be to God the Spirit, God Eternal, Three in One. Glory be to Him who loved us, washed us from each spot and stain. Glory be to Him who bought us, made us kings with Him to reign! Glory to the King of angels! Glory to the Church's King! Glory to the King of nations; heaven and earth, your praises bring! Glory, blessing, praise eternal; thus the choir of angels sings, honor, riches, power, dominion! Thus its praise creation brings! Amen.

The Joys and Concerns of the Church

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

◆ **The Hymn 366** Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

ST. CATHERINE

◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

◆ **The Postlude** Voluntary on the tune ST. ANNE Healey Willan

We welcome and thank guest organist Dr. Michael Bedford for his musical gifts offered today.

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.

A Congregational Meeting has been called by the Session and set for Sunday, September 17 immediately following the 11:00 service. The Nominating Committee will present a new slate of officers (elders, deacons, trustees) and the congregation will vote upon it.

Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to the Dr. B. P. Loughridge family.

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jeffrey Scott Steen by Frank and Leigh Ann Fore, Jerry and Shirley Steen and Whiteny and Tucker Steen.

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 Pilot – The Shepherd

Rev. Hutchinson

Closing Discussion of the Entire Series

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

Duff Points leads the class today on *Confronting Jesus*. Duff will also lead the Wednesday, September 6 class. Please note: the Wednesday class time is 11:30 a.m. E104.

Breakfast on Boston! – Next Sunday, 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.



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

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.



Seasons Women's Gatherings - Do you crave meaningful friendships that will last? Are you looking for deeper connections? Join us once a month, starting on September 11, to explore our relationship with Jesus as the ultimate model for authentic friendship. We will meet in the Miller Library on the second Monday of each month from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

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 E100. 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.

Wednesday Night Downtown

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

Enrollment for our children's and youth choirs is now open! Children and youth from age 5 through high school will learn rich theology and Biblical truth through songs, hymns, and musicals. There will be opportunities for them to sing for the congregation and the Tulsa community by singing for worship and special events throughout the year.

First Church Choristers children's choir is open to children age 5 through 4 grade.



The **Celebration Singers** youth choir is open to students in grades 5 – 12.



Both choirs will meet on Sundays at 9:00 a.m., starting Sept. 17. Enrollment is required; for a full schedule of events and to enroll, scan the QR code for each choir.

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.

Ireland and Kenya Trip Reviews – Join us on Sunday, September 17 (Ireland) and Sunday, September 24 (Kenya) at 9:30 a.m. in Stephenson Hall as the trip leaders give us a review of the Ireland and Kenya trips.

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.



Inquirers Class – If you're interested in learning more about First Church, please join us on Sundays, September 24, October 1, 8 and 15 from 9:15 - 10:40 a.m. in the Miller Library. Registering for the class is very helpful; use the QR code below or contact Patricia Hall at phall@firstchurchtulsa.org or 918-301-1028.



Keith and Kristyn Getty and their band return to First Church on Monday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. for their ***Sing! An Irish Christmas*** concert tour!! Tickets are on sale now at www.firstchurchtulsa.org/Getty23. Adults are \$10 each; free tickets are available for children 17 and under, with the purchase of an adult

ticket. Young adults 18 - 21 can attend free with an ID; an RSVP is required. Tickets are going fast, so get your tickets early!

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

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*, or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at 918-301-1030.

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jeanette Anderson, 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, Lyle Proffitt, Helen Quiring, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Asa Smith, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, and Susan Waldie.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: Rosemary Priest, a member since 1997, died on August 24; B. P. Loughridge, a member since 2020, died on August 28.

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 9/3

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| 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 |

Monday 9/4 – Labor Day, offices closed

Wednesday 9/6

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| 11:30 am | Pastor’s Study, E104 |
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Saturday 9/9

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| 8:45 am | Before the Rooster Crows, E103 |
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