



Discipleship: Catching God's Vision

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

AUGUST 13, 2023
11:00 AM
SANCTUARY

*First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa
Born by grace in 1885*
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

The Words of Preparation

Now Jesus sat by the offering gate as people brought their money: The rich, they filled the collection plate, --the widow gave a penny. "Now she's outgiven all the rest --her gift was all that she possessed." *Not what you give but what you keep* --is what the King is counting! Stewart Townend [Luke 21:1-4]

The Prelude 527 Near to the Heart of God

Mr. Michael Bedord, guest organist

The Welcome

Dr. Miller

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

The Introit

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

Nancy Walters

Emily Willard, soloist

All the way my Savior leads me, what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt his tender mercy, who through life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know what-e'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well. All the way my Savior leads me, cheers each winding path I tread, gives me grace for every trial, feeds me with the Living Bread; though my weary steps may falter, and my soul a-thirst may be, gushing from the Rock before me, Lo! A spring of joy I see. All the way my Savior leads me, O the fullness of His love! Perfect rest to me is promised in my Father's house above. When my spirit, clothed immortal, wings its flight to realms of day, this my song through endless ages: Jesus led me all the way.

The Call to Worship

If anyone is in Christ, there's a new creation! Everything old has passed away; everything has become new.

This is all God's doing --for God was in Christ reconciling us to Himself, not counting our sins against us --and entrusting that same good news message to us.

We have more than ample reason to stand in honor, lift our voices and sing our alleluias!

Yes, we do! Alleluia! Amen!

The Hymn

Lord, We Sing Our Alleluias!

ODE TO JOY

Lord, we sing our alleluias, hear us as we lift our praise: for the gift of Resurrection, Life in Christ, abundant grace! By your great redemptive power, you defeat our deadly foes; Jesus, Lord of Resurrection –deep and wide your mercy flows!

As you spoke to those still weeping, so to each of us You say: “I am Life and Resurrection! Why not welcome Me today?” To all those entombed in sadness, take the stone of doubt away; call forth joy and special gladness –grant abundant Life, we pray!

With the saints and choirs of angels and the Church in every place, we sing of Your gifts of mercy, Triune God of love and grace! Demons routed, death now vanquished, through the One who trumped the grave; deadly sin has lost all power, thanks to Christ who came to save!

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: how we magnify your Name! Yesterday, today, forever, always ever yet the same; faithful, steadfast, is your mercy; unrelenting is your love; sing we now our alleluias with the saints who live above!

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration**

Will Scheiper

◆ **The Old Testament Reading** Exodus 16:9-11

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: ‘Draw near to the LORD, for He has heard your complaining.’ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses, ‘I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground.

When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” [Hebrew = manna] For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. This is what the LORD has commanded: Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer per person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents.”

The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some less. But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed.

And Moses said to them, “Let no one leave any of it over until morning.” But they did not listen to Moses; some left part of it until morning, and it became wormy and rotten. And Moses was angry with them. Morning by morning they gathered it, as much as each needed, but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

The Prayer of Confession

Living Lord, as the Hebrew people complained in the wilderness, we, too, know how to complain. And we know what it means to hoard things we don't really need. Forgive us, good Lord, and have mercy on us. Give us eyes to see others with the same grace and love with which Your eyes have looked upon us. And grant that our hearts would be open to sharing with those in need –for Jesus' sake. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.... *(in silence)*

The Blessing of Forgiveness

The resurrection of Jesus means that He is here –alive and loose in this House of Prayer. This same Jesus is at work redemptively in every situation and, by His Spirit, He promises to bend evil to the good! Friends embrace this good news with all of your hearts: in

Christ Jesus there is forgiveness and salvation– for all who call upon Him! **Alleluia! Amen!**

◆ **The Response** [122] Thine is the Glory JUDAS MACCABEUS

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory
Thou o’er death hast won. Angels in bright raiment rolled the
stone away, kept the folded grave-clothes where Thy body lay.

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory Thou
o’er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb; lovingly He greets us,
scatters fear and gloom. Let the church with gladness hymns of
triumph sing, for the Lord now liveth –death hath lost its sting!
Refrain.

◆ **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 Rules? *Who Likes Them?*
Rules? *Who Needs Them?*

All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient. Exodus 24:7

The Hymn Trust and Obey

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His word, what a glory He sheds on our way! While we do His good will, He abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey. *Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

The New Testament Reading II Corinthians 8:1-15

Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in His kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.

For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.

So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to finish this ministry of giving. Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.

I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches.

You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that by His poverty He could make you rich.

Here is my advice: it would be good for you to finish what you started a year ago. Last year you were the first who wanted to give, and you were the first to begin doing it. Now you should finish what you started. Let the eagerness you showed in the

beginning be matched now by your giving. Give in proportion to what you have.

Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have. Of course, I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality.

Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need. Later, they will have plenty and can share with you when you need it. In this way, things will be equal. As the Scriptures say, **“Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over, and those who gathered only a little had enough.”**

The Sermon Discipleship: Cautionary Words, *One more Time*

I want you to excel...

II Corinthians 8:7

◆ **The Offertory** Wonderful Grace of Jesus

Wonderful grace of Jesus, greater than all my sin; how shall my tongue describe it, where shall its praise begin? Taking away my burden, setting my spirit free; for the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me!

Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus, deeper than the mighty rolling sea; higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain, all-sufficient grace for even me! Broader than the scope of my transgressions, greater far than all my sin and shame; O, magnify the precious Name of Jesus –praise His Name!

Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching to all the lost, by it I have been pardoned, saved to the uttermost; chains have been torn asunder, giving me liberty; for the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.
Refrain.

Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching the most defiled, by its transforming power, making him God's dear child, purchasing peace and heaven for all eternity— and the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me. *Refrain.*

The Joys and Concerns of the Church

Anderson School Mentoring Ministry

Tom Hillis, Darrell Walker

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

- ◆ **The Hymn** 443 O Christ, the Great Foundation AURELIA
- ◆ **The Charge and Benediction**
- ◆ **The Postlude** Fanfare Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

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.

Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to: Mrs. Marian Bovaird

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of MaryJo Pauls by Carol, Mark and Jacob Tipton.

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.



"Faith & Film" – An all-church, summer Sunday School class gathering at 9:30 a.m. in the 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	3 – Jesus Loves the Little Children 4 – The Rock on Which It Is Built	Rev. Metcalf
Aug. 20	5 – The Wedding Gift 6 – Indescribable Compassion	Elder Jacob Thompson
Aug. 27	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 E-104.

Dr. Miller leads the class today on Dr. Rebecca McLaughlin's book, *Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World's Largest Religion*. Today's question: *Is the Bible reliable?*

Beginning next Sunday, Physics Professor Jerry McCoy leads Dr. Miller's Class for two weeks (Sunday, Aug. 20, 27 and Wednesday, Aug. 23, 30). Please note: for the next two weeks, the Wednesday class begins at 12:30 p.m. instead of 11:30 p.m. E104.

Summer Swim – Cool off this summer! Bring your family to Camp Loughridge, today and every Sunday: 1:30 - 4:45 p.m. through September 3.

This Week

Support Anderson Mentoring Ministry: annual FPC Ping-Pong Tournament (including cookout!) – Next Sunday, August 20, following the 11:00 worship services. All ages are welcome to participate Sign-up today in the atrium.

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.

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*.

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*.

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

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, Asa Smith, 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 8/13

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 8/16

12:30 am Pastor's Study, E104

Saturday 8/19

8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103