



Discipleship: Catching God's Vision

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

AUGUST 6, 2023
11:00 AM
SANCTUARY

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

Sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.

The Words of Preparation

If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised to us in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak.

C. S. Lewis, *Weight of Glory*

The Prelude

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Amazing Grace

arr. Gene Roberson

Mr. Michael Bedford, organist

The Welcome

Dr. Miller

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

The Call to Worship

Isaiah 40:27-31

Why should we care what happens here in this House of Prayer this morning? Why should we give our full attention?

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted.

Do you really think the prophet Isaiah includes us in his promise that sinners, weak and weary as we are, can receive the Lord's power?

Indeed, for he says: those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

In Jesus this promise is fulfilled. His presence is assured; His all-sufficient grace is on offer to each and all. In Him alone we become:

Heirs of salvation, purchased by God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

This is the great, good news that meets us here today, a blessed

assurance!

The Introit

Blessed Assurance

arr. Ralph Manuel

The Rev. Julia Metcalf, and Jeffrey Metcalf

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O, what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood. *This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.* Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight; angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain.*

The Invocation

Come, Fount of every blessing! Tune our hearts to sing your praise!
Alleluia! Amen!

- ◆ **The Hymn** 356 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing NETTLETON
*(*Ebenezer: Stone of Help; cf. I Sam. 7:12)*

- ◆ **The Prayer of Adoration** Elder Patricia Hall

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 40:6-11 (responsively)

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers; the flower fades —when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

The grass withers; the flower fades —but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news!

Lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

See, the Lord God comes with might, and His arm rules for Him;

His reward is with Him and His recompense before Him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

He will gather the lambs in His arms and carry them in His bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

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 Blessing of Forgiveness

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 Response We Lift Our Hearts in Thanks LONDONDERRY AIR

The human heart yearns for a Guide to lead us home, ‘mid all the fears and turns that mark each day; and God himself has blessed us with His Holy Word, that draws us close and shares with us the Way! Inspired by God, the Bible leads to Jesus Christ, Who brings us home, by virtue of His grace; we lift our hearts in thanks for such a blessing; we lift our voice and sing with joy the good Lord’s praise!

Take us, dear Lord, and by your Spirit fashion us; retool our hearts, equip us by your grace --that we will live as those who give their very best and serve your will in every time and place! Inspire us, Lord, and bind our hearts to Christ alone, grant us resolve and courage by Your grace; we lift our hearts in thanks for such a blessing; we lift our voice and sing with joy the good Lord’s praise!

◆ 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 You're Invited! Courtney Miller

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:31–32

The Hymn 313

Come Down, O Love Divine

DOWN AMPNEY

The New Testament Reading Matthew 6:1-6

Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

◆ **The Postlude**

A Trumpet Minuet

Alfred Hollins

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 Anne McCune.

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. John Campbell by Mrs. Linda Campbell.

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 begin five weeks on *The Chosen* --one of the most remarkable film series on Jesus and His redemptive work.

Episodes

Today	1 – I Have Called You by Name 2 – Shabbat	Dr. Miller
Aug. 13	3 – Jesus Loves the Little Children 4 – The Rock on Which It Is Built	Rev. Metcalf
Aug. 20	5 – The Wedding Gift	Elder Jacob Thompson

6 – Indescribable Compassion

Aug. 27 7 – Invitations
8 – I Am He

Elder Jacob Thompson

Sept. 3 Pilot – The Shepherd

Rev. Hutchinson

The Pastor's Class: Summer Session on *Christian Apologetics* – today at 9:30 (and Wednesdays at 11:30) in E-104. Gregg Berkhouse teaches today on Dr. Rebecca McLaughlin's book, *Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World's Largest Religion*. Today's question: *Doesn't Religion Cause Violence?* Rebecca will be speaking in Stephenson Hall on Saturday night, September 16, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Summer Backyard Bible Study - Join us at the Wambugu home for an in-depth Summer Backyard Bible Study to review and discuss the sermon series each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. through August 9. Contact Laura Stevens at lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org for more information.

Mark Your Calendar

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

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*.

Four Things Christians Must Reclaim - Join us on Saturday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. in Stephenson Hall to hear guest speaker Dr. Rebecca McLaughlin. Rebecca has always been fascinated by the power of words and the message of the gospel. 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 will be on Monday, September 18 at 8:30 a.m. at the Meadowbrook Country Club.

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](https://www.instagram.com/fpcyoungadults), or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at 918-301-1030.

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Carol Caldwell, 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, Sarah Smith, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Shannon Thomas, and Susan Waldie.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: Larry Osterhout, a member since 2001, died on July 29.

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 8/6

- 8:00 am Worship: Kerr Chapel
8:30 am Worship: Stephenson Hall
9:30 am Christian Apologetics, led by Gregg Berkhouse, E104
 Faith in 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 8/9

- 11:30 am Pastor's Study, E104
6:30 pm Summer Backyard Bible Study, Rev. Wambugu's Home

Saturday 8/12

- 8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103