



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

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Stephenson Hall, 11:00 a.m.

Words of Preparation

Treasures on earth either rot by nature or are taken away by history. It is well known that fame is fickle. Last Saturday's hero is next season's nobody. This year's financial success is next year's bankrupt. It is not because Jesus is a misanthrope that he discourages the quest for success; it is because he loves human beings. He urges them to avoid the inevitable despair that comes with evanescent glory. Doing well— financially, professionally, socially, personally—doesn't last.

Dale Brunner

Prelude

Joy

We're choosing celebration, breaking into freedom; You're the song; You're the song of our hearts. We cast aside our shadows, trust You with our sorrows; You're the song; You're the song of our hearts.

We're dancing to the rhythm of Your heart. We're rising from the ashes to the stars.

You're the joy, joy, joy, lighting my soul. The joy, joy, joy, making me whole. Though I'm broken, I am running into Your arms of love.

The pain will not define us. Joy will reignite us; You're the song; You're the song of our hearts. The dark is just a canvas for Your grace and brightness; You're the song; You're the song of our hearts. *Refrain*

In the shadows, in the sorrows, in the desert when the pain hits, You are constant, ever present, You're the song of my heart.

Refrain

Welcome and Call to Worship

Songs of Praise Come People of the Risen King

Come, people of the Risen King, who delight to bring Him praise, come all and tune your hearts to sing to the Morning Star of grace. From the shifting shadows of the earth we will lift our eyes to Him, where steady arms of mercy reach to gather children in.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice! One heart; one voice; O Church of Christ, rejoice!

Come those whose joy is morning sun and those weeping through the night; come those who tell of battles won and those struggling in the fight. For His perfect love will never change and His mercies never cease, but follow us through all our days with the certain hope of peace. *Refrain*

Come young and old from every land, men and women of the faith; come those with full or empty hands, find the riches of His grace. Over all the world His people sing; shore to shore we hear them call the Truth that cries through every age, "Our God is all in all!" *Refrain*

I Am Not My Own

The One who made the heavens made my heart and soul; before I drew a breath I was loved and known. I am His creation, the Maker's masterpiece, and all that He designs will be done in me.

My body is a temple of the Living God; I'll worship in this house that His blood has bought. As I bear His image, O may I not profane, the holiness I hold in this earthly frame.

I belong to the Lord, O I am not my own. I belong to the Lord, I am not my own. I will honor Him for this I know, I belong to the Lord, I am not my own.

And, if He has redeemed me, I am not my own. The measure of my worth is His love alone. He declares my standing, and He declares my state, so I will know myself by the name He gave.

Refrain

I am not my own and now my heart is free; O Maker come and make what You will of me. There is nothing broken that You can not repair, so Lord I leave my life in Your loving care. *Refrain*

First Reading

Jeremiah 9:23-25

Elder Faith Wambugu

Prayer of Confession

Response to Confession

Come As You Are

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been. Come broken-hearted, let rescue begin. Come find your mercy, O sinner come kneel. Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal. Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.

Lay down your burdens, lay down your shame; all who are broken lift up your face. O wanderer come home, you're not too far. So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart, come as you are.

There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed. Come sit at the table, come taste the grace. There's rest for the weary, rest that endures; Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure.

Refrain

Come as you are. Fall in His arms. Come as you are.

There's joy for the morning, O sinner be still; Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal. Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal. *Refrain*

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel that in Jesus Christ, there is indeed forgiveness for everyone who calls upon His name. **Alleluia, amen!**

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.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

Blessing of the Young Disciples

Offering Before the Throne

Before the throne of God above I have a strong and perfect plea; a great High Priest whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me. My name is graven on His hands; my name is written on His heart; I know that while in heaven He stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart; no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within, upward I look and see Him there, who made an end to all my sin.

Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;
for God the Just is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me; to look
on Him and pardon me!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise the One risen Son of God!

Behold Him there the risen Lamb; my perfect spotless
righteousness; the great unchangeable I Am; the King of glory
and of grace. One with Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased
with His blood. My life is hid with Christ on high; with Christ my
Savior and my God; with Christ my Savior and my God! *Refrain*

Gospel Reading Matthew 6:1-2, 5, 16, 19-25

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| Sermon | Living for the Audience of One <i>No one can serve two masters.</i> | Rev. James R. Estes <i>Matthew 6:24</i> |
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Sacrament of Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Song of Sending Those Who Trust

Those who trust in the Lord are a strong mountain, they will not,
not be moved. Those who trust in the Lord are a strong
mountain, they will not, not be moved.

*Though the world moves like mad, You alone are faithful. Jesus
You, You will not, not be changed.*

Christ the King sets my feet on a firm foundation that will not, it
will not be moved. Christ the King sets my feet on a firm
foundation that will not, it will not be moved. *Refrain*

Those who trust in the Lord are as Mount Zion; they will not, they will not be moved. Those who trust in the Lord are as Mount Zion; they will not, they will not be moved. *Refrain*

Charge and Benediction

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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 Elder Jacob Thompson
8 – I Am He

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
Isabel Feamster
William Hill
Juliette John-Bowman
Nyla Kisitu

Nate Njonjo
Magnolia Perceful
Lilli Rogers
Thea Rogers
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

Jasmine Koori

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

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