



***Embracing the Mystery:
God's Great Drama
and the Church's Role***

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

**REFORMATION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 31, 2021
11:00 AM
STEPHENSON HALL**

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

Reformation Sunday
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Stephenson Hall, 11:00 a.m.

Words of Preparation

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper
He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great, and
armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal. Did we in our
own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the
right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing. Dost ask
who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He; Lord Sabaoth, His name,
from age to age the same, and He must win the battle.

Martin Luther, A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Prelude

Hymn of the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, guide my vision, help me see the way You see. Always
Jesus, ever Jesus, Christ in all as Christ in me. Holy Spirit guide my
speaking, words of grace and truth abound. Let my lips be filled
with stories of the mercy that I've found.

*You're the light. You're my path. You're the Shepherd of my soul.
All I am, all I have, Holy Spirit, lead me on.*

Holy Spirit, guide my hearing, wake my ears to words You speak.
In the thunder, in the stillness, let Your voice be clear to me. Let
Your voice be clear to me. *Refrain*

Holy Spirit, lead me onward, walking through the great unknown.
Trusting, leaning, holding, clinging, 'til the day You lead me home.
Refrain

Grace Alone

Invitation to Worship

This is Amazing Grace

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness; whose love is mighty and so much stronger? The King of Glory; the King above all kings. Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder; who leaves us breathless in awe and wonder? The King of Glory; the King above all kings.

This is amazing grace; this is unfailing love; that You would take my place, that You would bear my cross. You would lay down Your life that I would be set free; Jesus, I sing for all that You've done for me.

Who brings our chaos back into order; who makes the orphan a son and daughter? The King of Glory; the King above all kings. Who rules the nations with truth and justice; shines like the sun in all of its brilliance? The King of Glory; the King above all kings.

Refrain

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain; worthy is the King who conquered the grave. *Refrain*

Welcome

Faith Alone

The Time of Remembrance *(See page 8)*

David Marshall, piper

Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer, there is no more for heaven now to give. He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom. My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace. To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, for my life is wholly bound to His. Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing “all is mine”, yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark but I am not forsaken, for by my side, the Savior, He will stay. I labor on in weakness and rejoicing, for in my need His power is displayed. To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me; through the deepest valley he will lead. Oh, the night has been won and I shall overcome, yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven. The future sure, the price it has been paid, for Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and He was raised to overthrow the grave. To this I hold, my sin has been defeated; Jesus now and ever is my plea. Oh, the chains are released. I can sing I am free, yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus, for He has said that he will bring me home. And day by day I know He will renew me, until I stand with joy before the throne. To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus. All the glory evermore to Him. When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat, yet not I, but through Christ in me.

First Reading Isaiah 61

Introduction to Confession (The Westminster Shorter Catechism)

Q14: What is sin?

A14: Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.

Q18: Wherein consists the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell?

A18: The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called Original Sin; together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it.

Prayer of Confession (by John Calvin)

Lord God, eternal and almighty Father: We acknowledge before your holy majesty that we are poor sinners, conceived and born in guilt and in corruption, prone to do evil, unable of our own power to do good. Because of our sin, we endlessly violate your holy commandments. But, O Lord, with heartfelt sorrow we repent and turn away from all our offenses. We condemn ourselves and our evil ways, with true sorrow asking that your grace will relieve our distress. Have compassion on us, most gracious God, Father of mercies, for the sake of your son Jesus Christ our Lord. And in removing our guilt, also grant us daily increase of grace your Holy Spirit, and produce in us the fruits of holiness and of righteousness pleasing in your sight: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christ Alone

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone, my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song. This Cornerstone, this solid Ground; firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of

peace; when fears are stilled, when strivings cease? My Comforter, my All in All; here, in the love of Christ, I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh; fullness of God in helpless babe. This gift of love and righteousness; scorned by the ones He came to save. 'Til on that cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied; for every sin on Him was laid; here, in the death of Christ, I live.

There, in the ground, His body lay; light of the world by darkness slain. Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again! And, as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me; for I am His and He is mine; bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death; this is the power of Christ in me. From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny. No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand; 'til He returns or calls me home; here, in the power of Christ, I'll stand.

The Assurance of Pardon

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. So 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!

The Affirmation of Faith (Heidelberg Catechism, Question 1)

1. Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Scripture Alone

Speak, O Lord

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your holy word. Take Your truth, plant it deep in us, shape and fashion us in Your likeness, that the light of Christ might be seen today, in our acts of love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience, Holy reverence, true humility. Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity. Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority. Words of power that can never fail, let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds. Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us. Truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity. And by grace we'll stand on Your promises, and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.

Scripture Reading Ephesians 4:17-32

Sermon

What Are We Wearing?

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self...and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (Eph. 5:20-22, 24)

Joys and Concerns, Prayers of the People, the Lord's Prayer

God's Glory Alone

Great Are You, Lord

You give life; You are love; You bring light to the darkness. You give hope; You restore every heart that is broken. Great are You, Lord.

It's Your breath in our lungs, so we pour out our praise; we pour out our praise! It's Your breath in our lungs; so we pour out our praise to You only, Lord!

And all the earth will shout Your praise; our hearts will cry, these bones will sing; great are You, Lord! *Refrain*

Charge and Benediction

For All the Saints Who Died in This Last Year
Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life ."

Dear Lord Jesus, we remember with a deep gratitude the dear ones listed below. According to your baptismal promise, they are lambs of your own flock, sheep of your own fold, and sinners of your own redeeming. In joyful confidence, we commend them to you until that glorious day of resurrection --when the circle will be unbroken by your merciful grace! You alone are the Giver of eternal life. Hear us, today, as we give you thanks and praise, commending those we love into your care. Alleluia! Amen!

November

12 – Bur Blue
28 – Jim Lewis

December

9 – Calvin Swindell
29 – Walt MacMillan
30 – Fred Droege

January, 2021

3 – Carolyn McCright
6 – Myrna Monkres
10 – Allan Edwards
11 – Leo V. Legg
26 – Ginny Wood

February

7 – Orpha Harnish
22 – Bill Shambaugh

March

21 – Alan Ratliff
24 – Jeff Stewart

May

2 – Marjorie Swofford

June

27 – Willis (Bill) Thompson

July

9 – Carol Sanders
10 – Challa Ashlock
19 – Steve Tollett
27 – Janie Quint

August

1 – Hugh Watson
8 – Madge Ryder

September

3 – Larry Don Johnson
5 – Joan Hastings Camp
24 – Dr. Robert Shepard

October

12 – Maggie B. Jones

The above names – members of First Presbyterian Church who have died over the past year – do not include the many friends and extended family members of First Church who have also died this past year.

Worship Notes

Welcome to worship! We gather by Christ's invitation to feed on His Word, open our hearts to His presence, and pray for the Holy Spirit's empowering.

A special and heartfelt welcome to those here for the first time. We pray you might sense the presence of Christ and the warm welcome of this congregation.

Blessed to worship! The Session has re-established our regular Sunday worship times. You're welcome next Sunday in one of these locations:

- 8:00** Kerr Chapel (weekly communion)
- 8:30** Stephenson Hall (weekly communion, praise band)
- 11:00** Sanctuary (Traditional, with choir)
Stephenson Hall (Contemporary, with praise band)
Great Hall (Bernsen, fourth floor) *Tulsa International Fellowship*

Services are broadcast on *livestream.com*, the FPC Facebook page, and on Cox channel 3 (each Sunday) at 11:00 a.m., 5:00 and 10:00 p.m.

The flowers in today's Sanctuary worship are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Charles Crane, Ruth Crane Ferguson, C.W. Steinsiek and Mary Ann Steinsiek Rich, given by Brett and Cheryl Crane.

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* or text 405-276-4141. You will also find offering plates located at the back of each worship space.

For those who need hearing assistance in the Sanctuary, audio headsets are available from the ushers.

Please notify the church if there is a pastoral need, change of address/phone number or other important family news. Contact Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029 or *kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org*.

In this continuing season of the COVID virus, we yearn to do whatever we can to diminish the risk for those who gather here. The Session has recommended the wearing of masks during the worship services. Thanks to each for your efforts in this regard.

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Billy Boyd, Pat Brown, Eleanor Carmack, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Wandie and Mary Fitzpatrick, Pat Ford, Luke Fravel, Gary Gilliam, Glenda Goodwin, Gaye Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Mike Hopkins, Meg Hubler, Harvey Hunt, Caroline Fravel Jones, Joyce Kunkel, Annelle Lanford, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Laurence Mansur, Ann McKellar, Jan Miller, Rosemary Priest, David Osterholt, David Raybourn, Carly Rivers, Zach Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Susan Shults, Robert Shaw, Helen Marie Sisler, Cissy Ssettimba, Sally Stewart, Mary Lee Torbert, Quendy Veatch, Dayne Weierbach, Bill Weinrich, and Jack Williams.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: John Kemuel “Kem” Cravens, a member since 1993, died on October 25; Bob Matthews, a member since 1994, died on October 27; Terry Diacon, a member since 1964, died on October 28.

Sermon Notes

Ephesians 4:17-32

All commentaries point out that Ephesians has two main parts: what is *true* about the work of God in Christ and our life in him (chapters 1-3) and what to *do* in light of the gospel (chapters 4-6). If we transpose this structure into the metaphor of drama, **chapters 1-3** present the **casting call** into God's drama and **chapters 4-6** are the **character notes** describing the kind of characters we are and how we should play our roles in the drama.

The **casting call** tells us who we are in the drama: we are chosen in Christ, adopted children of God, sinners saved by grace through faith, members of God's household, the reconciled people of God. God decides to cast us this way not because we are naturally suited for the role but because of the great love of Christ that surpasses knowledge (3:19).

The **character notes** tell us how we should play our roles in the drama, having taken off our old street clothes (4:22) and put on the costume of our new role (4:24). Paul covers a lot of ground here, telling us already toward the end of Ephesians 4 that we should be characters who:

- Speak the truth rather than speaking falsehoods (4:25)
- Express anger in godly ways (4:26)
- Work honestly rather than stealing (4:28)
- Share with the needy (4:27)
- Communicate with grace-filled words rather than evil ones (4:28)
- Express kindness and tenderness rather than bitterness, wrath, angry, contention, and slander (4:31-32)
- Forgive (4:32)

Even though it may seem daunting to build this kind of character, we have the assurance that God's power is working within us (1:19; 3:16, 20; 6:10). By God's power and grace, therefore, we are always being reformed in Christ to perform our role faithfully in God's drama.

First Church Updates

Stewardship campaign now through December 2021: Thank you for your faithful giving to support the ministries of this congregation! By now you've received your stewardship package in the mail. Your gifts, your energy and your devotion are expressions of the presence of Christ in the world He loves. The Session of First Church is at work on the 2022 budget. Your commitment cards will greatly assist them in their work.

Pastor's reminder: *I'm confident that none of us, standing in the presence of Jesus at the end of time, will ever think: I shouldn't have given as generously as I did to the work of Christ through the His Church. Thank you for your faithfulness and commitment. As we look ahead, let's give of our best to the Master!*

Check out the Book Sale in the Atrium! This Sunday, and next Sunday, 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., the Book Table will offer books to lift your faith for \$3, \$2, and \$1. The price is hard to beat and the payoff is priceless.

All Saints' Day Remembrance Service: tomorrow, November 1, 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel. This service of music and communion remembers with gratitude those who have died in the past year. A luncheon and a time of fellowship follows in the Miller Library.

This Saturday, Nov. 7, 3:00 p.m. A showing of the new movie on C.S. Lewis' life: *the Most Reluctant Convert!* We've rented the whole theater so bring your friends! Cinemark Tulsa at HWY 169 & 71st Street. Tickets: \$9.00 per person. Please reserve through Realm or email Phall@firstchurchtulsa.org and send a check to FPC attention Patricia Hall.



In the Footsteps of the Master! Interested in joining a pilgrimage to Israel? Dr. Miller leads a tour next May 25 to June 9. An informational meeting is set for next Sunday, November 7 at 12:15 p.m. in room E104. Please let us know you're coming: dschooley@firstchurchtulsa.org, or 918-301-1015.

Marriage Enrichment Retreat, this Saturday, November 6, at 10:00 a.m. in the Bernsen Center. Join us for this special one-day marriage enrichment retreat featuring member Tom Philp who is a marriage counselor, a message from a minister and lunch. Registration is \$8 per adult including lunch. \$3 for children. Register online by Wednesday, November 3 or call James Estes at 918-301-1010 with questions.



Christmas Eve Live Nativity! Last week to register! Join us as we journey to Bethlehem! Register online now through Monday, November 1. The Live Nativity is open to All children in grades K-8 – there's a role for EVERYONE! Rehearsals are from 12:15-1:00 p.m., every Sunday in November and December. If your student would like to try out for a speaking part or singing solo, auditions for those will be today in the Sanctuary after the 11:00 service. Please see: www.firstchurchtulsa.org/natreg21.

The Festival of Faith: Dr. Jerry Root, Saturday night and Sunday, November 13-14. Dr. Root, long-time professor at Wheaton College, and an expert on C. S. Lewis, will lead us on the theme: *The Blessing of C. S. Lewis*.

Called to help our new Afghan neighbors? Please register for the orientation meeting: this Wednesday, and Sunday, November 7 during the Sunday School hour. To register or questions, please contact Rev. James Estes at 918-301-1010 or jestes@firstchurchtulsa.org.

First Church is seeking an administrative assistant who supports the Mission, TIF, and New Member Outreach departments. Candidate must have excellent skills in Word, Excel, and Outlook. The role requires exceptional organizational skills, event coordination, and effective written and verbal communication abilities. Please send your resume to Tonye Briscoe at tbriscoe@firstchurchtulsa.org.

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

Adult Classes for NEXT Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

On Site:

Bible Walk	True Christian Community	E101
Cornerstone	Wesley Bible Curriculum	E102
Covenanters	<i>Making Sense of the Bible</i> by Adam Hamilton	E205
Faith and Family	<i>Old Testament Survey</i>	E104
Forum	<i>Who Needs Christmas?</i>	E200
Pastor's Study	<i>Mere Christianity</i>	Stephenson Hall
Reflections	Attend Afghan Refugee meeting	
Sojourners (All Ages)	<i>Spiritual Formation through the writings of Teresa Avila</i>	E204
Upper Room	Bible Study	E313
Young Adults (20's and 30's)	Old Testament Survey	E104

On Site and Zoom:

The Vine (Singles/couples)	<i>The Good and Beautiful God</i>	E100
Shepherds	Creeds and Confessions	E203

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today 10/31/21

- 8:00 a.m. Worship, Kerr Chapel
- 8:30 a.m. Worship, Stephenson Hall
- 9:30 a.m. Gatherings and Classes
- 11:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary, Stephenson Hall and Great Hall

Monday 1/1/21

- All Saints' Day Worship Service 11:00 a.m., Kerr Chapel
- Guy's Monday Bible Study 11:45 a.m., Room E103
- All Saints' Day Luncheon 12:00 p.m., Miller Library
- Monday School 12:00 p.m., KRC
- Little Lambs 10:00 a.m., Outside Playground

Tuesday 11/2/21

- Precept Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Room E100

Wednesday 11/3/21

- Pastor's Study 11:30 a.m., Stephenson Hall
- Youth Praise Band 5:00 p.m., Powerhouse
- WNDT Dinner 5:15 p.m., Stephenson Hall
- Gloria Choir 5:30 p.m.
- Awana 6:00 p.m.
- POW and Amass Exodus 6:00 p.m., Powerhouse
- Adult Classes 6:15 p.m., Various Locations
- Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Choir Room

Saturday 11/6/21

- Before the Rooster Crows 8:45 a.m., E103

**October 31, 2021
11:00 Stephenson Hall**

Please help us with contact tracing and attendance by filling out the information below and leaving this page on your seat as you leave.

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Member _____ or Guest _____

or

going to the link: bit.ly/fpcregister;

or

using the QR code below.

