



The Work of Christ... And of His Church

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

DECEMBER 3, 2023
11:00 AM
STEPHENSON HALL

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

First Sunday of Advent: Hope

Stephenson Hall, 11:00 a.m.

Words of Preparation

Lord of hope, as night workers long for sunrise, we long for the coming of Christ. In our worship today we yearn for your Spirit to give us a glimpse of your glory, that one day we will see in full, when all will be made new, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, our light. Amen.

Prelude

O You Bring

O you bring hope to the hopeless, and light to those in the darkness, and death to life –now I'm alive! O you give peace to the restless, and joy to homes that are broken, I see you now; in you I'm found!

And you opened the door for me, and you laid down your life to set me free!
All that I am will serve you, Lord.

O you fill those who are empty, and rescue those in the valley, and through it all you calm my soul. O now, you find me in my weakness and heal the wounds of my heartache, I worship you in spirit and truth!

*And you opened the door for me, and you laid down your life to set me free!
All that I am will serve you, Lord. And you opened my eyes to see all the wonder and awe of Christ in me. Jesus, you're everything I need.*

All honor, all glory, all praise to you. All honor, all glory, all praise to you. All honor, all glory, all praise to you. *Refrain*

Welcome and Call to Worship

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

(Isaiah 40:1-5)

Even so, come Lord Jesus.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Come and bring your hope.

O Come, Emmanuel.

Come, and reveal your glory.

O Come, Emmanuel.

Come and make a straight path into our lives, and into our hearts.

O Come, Emmanuel.

Songs of Praise

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny. From depths of Hell Thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free; From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee. Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart!

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by Thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne!

Joy to those who long to see You, Dayspring from on high, appear; come, O promised Shoot of Jesse, of your birth we long to hear. O'er the hills come voices ringing --news, glad tidings of a birth: "Go to him, your praises bringing: Christ the Lord is come to earth!

Prayer of Confession

Lighting the Advent Candle Hope (1)

Ryan and Rita Graeler, Erin Horton, Robby Horton, and Ben Sunagoowie

This morning, we light the candle of hope as a sign and declaration that in Christ Jesus, there is hope. There is hope for a broken world, and there is hope for ruined sinner; for Christ has overcome the darkness. Christ has overcome death and sin and the devil. Christ has overcome every power and principality, triumphing over them on the cross. The Apostle Peter puts it this way, "According to God's great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..."

Therefore, let us rejoice in Jesus Christ, our hope and our deliverance!

Confession Response There is Hope

There is hope in grace unceasing, You withhold your wrath from me, poured it out upon my Saviour on the cross of Calvary. There is hope now for the hopeless, there is victory all can know, for the tomb lies bare and broken, and death's power is overthrown.

Jesus Christ my hope forever, hope unlike the world can bring, Your steadfast love beyond all measure; there is hope in Christ my King.

There is hope for sons and daughters who have wandered on their own. Hear the songs of joy from heaven as the lost are welcomed home. *Refrain*

Hallelujah! Hope of heaven, precious treasure of my life, all my joy is in your presence. I am yours and you are mine.

I will wait until I see Him, though the twilight turns to night, for my hope is not defeated, it will greet His dawning light. *Refrain*

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

This Hope

All of creation waits for You to set it free and finally be made new. And so we too await adoption as your sons and daughters; oh, this hope.

Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray. He who searches our hearts knows the mind of God and intercedes for us, according to His will. And all will be made good for those who love Him. Amen. *Refrain*

Those who He predestined He has also called, and those He called He justified. What then shall we say, for He did not spare His son, Jesus Christ, who died. Jesus justifies, and more than that was raised, and He sits at God's right hand. Oh, His redeeming love, interceding for us. *Refrain*

Gospel Reading

John 14:1-14

Sermon

Christ Our Hope

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (John 14:1)

Sacrament of Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Joys and Concerns and the Lord's Prayer

Song of Sending

Jesus Messiah

He became sin who knew no sin that we might become His righteousness.
He humbled Himself and carried the cross; Love so amazing. Love so
amazing.

*Jesus, Messiah, Name above all names; Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel. The
Rescue for sinners, the Ransom from heaven, Jesus, Messiah; Lord of all.*

His body the bread, His blood the wine, broken and poured out all for love.
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn; love so amazing. Love so
amazing. *Refrain*

All our hope is in You. All our hope is in You. All the glory to You, God; The
Light of the world. *Refrain*

Charge and Benediction

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We welcome you on this first Sunday of Advent! Advent is a word that means "coming near". During this season, we remember that Christ has come, that Christ comes to us today, and that Christ will come again. Whatever you bring with you here today, we pray that you will sense the incoming presence of Christ among us, the warmth of this community that He has called together, and the joy of serving in His name.

If you do not have a church home, we would love to welcome you!
For information, contact Patricia Hall (918-301-1028 or phall@firstchurchtulsa.org).

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Cathy Akin, Jane Azlin, Adelle Beathe, Steve Brill, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Randy Corelli, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Judah DeSpain, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, Gaye Graeler, Rita Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jon Mercer, Jan Miller, Jim Miller, David Osterholt, Bill Peacher, Shari Postier, Lyle Proffitt, Bob Pyle, Helen Quiring, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Larry Tromp, Marcia Tromp, and Susan Waldie.

The Sacrament of Baptism: Atalia Chisolm Ekwempu, daughter of Phyllis and Somto Ekwempu, was baptized on November 26.

Sympathy and Prayers to: Carolyn Perryman on the recent loss of her sister.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: Frances Patterson, a member since 1973, died on November 24, and David Dunning, a member since 1975, died on November 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.

The flowers for today's worship service in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Heather Davis, and our respective parents: George and Armenta Davis, Earl and Ruby Enkey, by Jerry and Patricia Hall and family.

Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to the Chancel Choir.

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.



First Church Updates

It is Stewardship Season! Thank you for taking the local church seriously and giving of your very best to the Master. In this transition time, your support in prayer and giving is vital.

For information regarding the transition and the future of pastoral leadership, check out the website at firstchurchtulsa.org and look for the highlighted word “transition”. If you have questions, concerns, or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the members of the Transition Team by sending your inquiries to FPCTransition@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Pastoral Prayer: Join us as we pray for the pastoral transition. If you're interested in receiving a weekly prayer prompt, please text [@pastorfpc](https://www.instagram.com/pastorfpc) to “81010”.

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.

Presbyterian Women's December Mission Project is Emergency Infant Services. EIS provides help for children 5 and under. They will be collecting funds for diapers in the collection box in the atrium.

Internship Opportunity – Are you a college student who loves God and enjoys working with youth? Next Generation Ministries is now receiving applications for its summer youth ministry internship program. Contact Steve Wilson at swilson@firstchurchtulsa.org for more information.

The Gift Back Mission Market is open in the atrium on Sunday, December 10 and 17. Honor your family and friends with the gift of music. First Church is helping our partner school in Nairobi launch a music education program. All gifts will be used to establish this program for local students. For more information visit us at the table in the atrium.

Events This Week

Monday School - Rev. Dan Hutchinson will teach on December 4 and 11. His topic will focus on what it means to be Orthodox, Reformed, and Evangelical. The lesson begins at 12:00 p.m. in Kirkland Library with an optional lunch at 11:30 a.m. in the Bernsen Reception Room.

Wednesday Night Downtown

Dinner at 5:15 p.m. in Stephenson Hall – Class starts at 6:15 p.m.

Seekers Bible Study, room E104 - Rev. Wambugu

6 Great Dates, room E103 - Jerry and Anne McCoy, and
Rev. Dan Hutchinson

Jesus, the Light of the World, room E100 - Duff Points

Mark Your Calendar

Annual First Ladies Christmas Luncheon on Sunday, December 10 in the Miller Library after the 11:00 worship services. There is no charge but an RSVP is required. Please reserve your place by clicking the QR code below or by calling Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029.



Seasons Women’s Gathering – Join us for our next session of “We Saved You a Seat: Finding and Keeping Lasting Friendship” as we explore our relationship with Jesus as the ultimate model for authentic friendship. Bring a friend! We meet on Monday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Miller Library.

Celebrating Christmas Together – Share the love of Christ and the love of First Church by adopting an Anderson elementary student for Christmas. Your donation of \$50 will be used to fill a gift bag. Each sponsored student will receive a Christmas story book, game, socks, and a sweatshirt. Mark your calendar for Friday, December 15, as our congregation travels to Anderson Elementary to celebrate together. If you would like to volunteer, please scan the QR code in the atrium.



Mark Your Calendars with these events:

December 4	Sing! An Irish Christmas Concert, Sanctuary
December 15	Celebrating Christmas Together
December 24	Christmas Eve Services
December 25	Christmas Day Service, Kerr Chapel
Jan. 15 – Feb. 22	January Series

Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24:

(all are candle-lighting)

11:00 a.m. Worship Service Sanctuary and Great Hall

5:00 p.m. Nativity Musical Sanctuary

7:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols Sanctuary

11:00 p.m. Watchnight and Communion Sanctuary

Monday, December 25: *Christmas Day*

11:00 a.m. Kerr Chapel

Sunday, December 31, 2023: *New Year's Day*

9:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast, Atrium and Stephenson Hall

11:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

TODAY 12/3

- 8:00 am Worship: Kerr Chapel
- 8:30 am Worship: Stephenson Hall
- 11:00 am Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall

Monday 12/4

- 10:00 am Little Lambs, Wiseman Hall
- 11:30 am Monday School, Kirkland Library
- 11:45 am Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103

Wednesday 12/6

- 5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
- 6:00 pm Awana, POW, Amass Exodus
- 6:15 pm Adult Classes
- 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Saturday 12/9

- 8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103

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

<i>Cornerstone</i>	Advent Series	E102
<i>Covenanters</i>	Advent Series	E101
<i>Faith and Family</i>	Advent Series	Prayer Room
<i>Forum</i>	Advent Series	E200
<i>Harbingers</i>	The Life You've Always Wanted	E202
<i>Morning Glory</i>	Advent Series	B318
<i>Young Parents</i>	Guest Speaker	E205
<i>Pastor's Study/Foundations</i>		
	Advent Series	E104
<i>Reflections</i>	Advent Series	E103
<i>Shepherds</i>	Advent Series	E203
<i>Sojourners</i>	Advent Series	E204
<i>The Vine</i>	Advent Series	E100
<i>Westminster</i>	Maccabees	Tower Room
<i>Young Adults and Ukirk</i>		
	Advent Series	E201