



Credible Witnesses on the Road to Pentecost

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

April 30, 2023
Stephenson Hall, 11:00 AM

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

Fourth Sunday of Eastertide

Stephenson Hall, 11:00 a.m.

Words of Preparation

[The angels] do ask Mary, “why are you weeping?” This is the question posed again and again “from above,” from the perspective of the resurrection, to those who in their grief and uncertainty still judge everything from the perspective of death.

Hermon Ridderbos, The Gospel of John

Prelude

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 and Passing the Peace

Songs of Praise

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*

Graves into Gardens

I searched the world but it couldn't fill me. Man's empty praise and treasures that fade are never enough. Then You came along and put me back together, and every desire is now satisfied here in Your love.

Oh, there's nothing better than You. There's nothing better than You. Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than You.

I'm not afraid to show You my weakness. My failures and flaws, Lord, You've seen them all and You still call me friend. 'Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley, and there's not a place Your mercy and grace won't find me again. *Refrain*

You turn mourning to dancing. You give beauty for ashes. You turn shame into glory; You're the only one who can. You turn graves into gardens. You turn bones into armies. You turn seas into highways; You're the only one who can. *Refrain*

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 43:1-7 Elder Jessica John-Bowman

Prayer of Confession

What a Beautiful Name

You were the Word at the beginning, one with God, the Lord Most High; Your hidden glory in creation, now revealed in You, our Christ.

What a beautiful Name it is. What a beautiful Name it is; the Name of Jesus Christ my King. What a beautiful Name it is. Nothing compares to this; what a beautiful Name it is; the Name of Jesus.

You didn't want heaven without us, so, Jesus, You brought heaven down. My sin was great, Your love was greater; what could separate us now.

What a wonderful Name it is. What a wonderful Name it is; the Name of Jesus Christ my King. What a wonderful Name it is. Nothing compares to this; what a wonderful Name it is; The Name of Jesus.

Death could not hold You. The veil tore before You. You silence the boast of sin and grave. The heavens are roaring the praise of Your glory, for You are raised to life again.

You have no rival. You have no equal. Now and forever God You reign. Yours is the kingdom. Yours is the glory. Yours is the Name above all names.

What a powerful Name it is. What a powerful Name it is; the Name of Jesus Christ my King. What a powerful Name it is. Nothing can stand against what a powerful Name it is; The Name of Jesus.

Assurance of Pardon The Eastertide Affirmation of Faith

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved—if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day, and that *He appeared first to the women, then to Peter and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses*. We believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; He is our Lord and our God.

Response of Gratitude

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.

Blessing of the Young Disciples

Offering Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous mystery in the dawning of the King. He, the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity. In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come. Look to Christ who condescended, took on flesh, to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, He the perfect Son of Man. In His living, in His suffering, never trace nor stain of sin. See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man. Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in Him we stand.

Our Letter of Blessing today goes to the Confirmation Class of 2023.

Today

Works of HeART - WOH is an FPC art ministry for the clients at the Day Center for the Homeless. Interested in volunteering? Visit the table in the atrium today.

It's time to consider leadership within First Church! Please see back of today's bulletin.

This Week

"Significant Essays" by C. S. Lewis. Dr. Miller begins his new Pastor's Study today and each Sunday at 9:30 (Stephenson) and every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. (E104).

Praying to Pentecost - The prayer room, (204), remains open during normal church hours through Pentecost, May 28. Come and enjoy a special time of presence and conversation with the Master.

National Day of Prayer service this Thursday, May 4, at 11:30 in the Courtyard. Dr. Miller leads the service. Light lunch is served immediately following. If your schedule prohibits you from joining the service but you would still like to "join together" in prayer, please join us that evening at 7:00 p.m. via the Zoom link:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84528066328?pwd=bWoxNmFKZGpLOUZrS0JKU0dUV3AwUT09> (Meeting ID: 845 2806 6328; Passcode: R92qYX)

The Inquirers Class – The adventure of Christian community! Bring your questions as you consider why a community of faith is important in your discipleship. Today at 9:15, and continuing Sundays, April 30, May 7 and 14 (Miller Library). Register by contacting Patricia Hall at 918-301-1028 or click on the QR code below.



Presbyterian Women: purchase your Mother's Day cards to help benefit women caught in domestic violence. The design artist this year is our member, Mary Lee Weaver. Pick up your cards today in the atrium and on Sunday, May 7.

Wednesday Night Downtown

Join us for *Small Talk on Big Truths*: Dr. Miller joins Rev. Wambugu Gachungi in room E104 on Wednesdays nights at 6:15 p.m. --an in-depth study of last week's sermon Scriptures. Bring your Bible!

Mark Your Calendar

Deacons Day of Care: Saturdays, May 6 and May 20, 9:00 a.m. Teams help with light yard work and home maintenance. To volunteer, or to request help at your home, register in the atrium today or Sunday, April 30. Contact Julie Steiner at juliesteiner19@gmail.com or Kathy Wilson at kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org for information.

Seasons: Spring Fling! Monday, May 8, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Join us for a special evening with guest speaker Lindi Collins who will encourage our hearts with a devotion entitled "Crowns of Glory" and teach our hands in creating flower crowns to take home. Please RSVP to lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org by May 3.

Second Annual Kids Fishing Derby! Camp Loughridge, May 20. To register, visit the table in the atrium today.



Ongoing Ministry Opportunities

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, Linda Barnett, Rob Berry, Pat Brown, Beth Campbell, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, David Dunning, Mary Ann Elliott, Anita Ewing, Gaye Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jan Miller, David Morgan, David Osterholt, Larry Osterhout, Rosemary Priest, Lyle Proffitt, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Marcia Tromp and Susan Waldie.

The Sacrament of Baptism: Georgia Burke Moore, daughter of Paige and Keith Moore, was baptized on April 23.

Worship Notes

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Glade and Marie Kirkpatrick and our son Perry Dyson Inhofe II, MD, by Jim and Kay Inhofe.

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 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*.

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.



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.

Today we welcome the 2023 Confirmands at the service they attend:

Steve Wilson, Director of High School Ministries

Ife Aruna	David Masaku
Sheila Atkinson	Morgan McInstosh
Liam Cavin	Nelly Nghitila
Naomi DeSpain	Josh Nsereko
Lucy Donohue	Alex Philp
Taylor Farris	Devyne Ramey
Vivienne Fravel	Gloria Shelton
Zoe Gingerich	Phoebe Stoeppelwerth
Carol Gitau	Hope Thompson
Jarrett Kamande	Rupert Winton
Laurencia Masabarakiza	

Special appreciation to the confirmation leaders
for their guidance and support of these youth.

Confirmation Leaders:
Jennifer Philp, Kelly Brown, Rebecca Kibui,
Shannon Bair & Eli Wilson

THIS WEEK

TODAY 4/30

8:00 am Worship: Kerr Chapel
 8:30 am Worship: Stephenson Hall
 9:30 am Gatherings and Classes
 11:00 am Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall

Monday 5/1

11:30 am Monday School, Kirkland Library
 11:45 am Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103

Tuesday 5/2

9:30 am Precepts, E100

Wednesday 5/3

11:30 am Pastor's Study, E104
 11:30 am Downtown Theological Roundtable, 206
 12:00 pm Pathways to Hope, 206
 5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
 6:00 pm Awana, POW and Amass Exodus
 6:15 pm Adult classes, various locations
 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Saturday 5/6

8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

TODAY: Adult Classes, 9:30 a.m.

Cornerstone	<i>Minor Prophets</i>	E102
Covenanters	<i>Renovated: God, Dallas, & the Church That Transforms</i>	E101
Faith and Family	<i>Minor Prophets</i>	Prayer Room
Forum	<i>Soul Keeping</i>	E200
Harbingers	<i>Eternity is Now</i>	E202
Morning Glory	Mastering Your Emotions	B318
New Parents	Theology and Parenting	E205
Pastor's Study 1	Significant Essays by C. S. Lewis	Stephenson
Pastor's Study 2	New Testament Overview	E104
Reflections	<i>Gospel Account of Holy Week</i>	E103
Shepherds	<i>Study of Elijah</i>	E203
Sojourners	<i>Study of James</i>	E204
UKirk	New Testament Overview	E104
The Vine	<i>Study of Jonah</i>	E100
Westminster	<i>The Greatest Commandment</i>	Tower Room
Young Adults	New Testament Overview	E104

SEEKING GOD'S SERVANT LEADERS

After the pattern of the One "who came not to be served, but to serve."

-Matthew 20:28

One of the most important privileges we share is to encourage gifted and committed men and women to serve the Lord in leadership positions. Thank you for taking time to offer suggestions to the FPC Nominating Committee.

ELDERS (THE SESSION):

Responsible for the governance of the church.

They provide leadership in all areas, including: Worship, Administration, Programs, Mission, and Ministry.

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DEACONS:

The "heartbeat" of the church, ordained for the purpose of "ministering to those in special need."

TRUSTEES:

Stewards of the First Presbyterian Church Foundation.

THE OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Identifies leaders God has called and prepared to serve our congregation.

Currently Serving Elders

<u>Class of 2023</u> Maxwell Asare Dacia Bird Janine Burlin Debbie Favell Rusty Gaddy Patrick Kirunda Elisa Mangesho Anne McCoy Amy Russell Jim Scheiper	<u>Class of 2024</u> Laurel Baird Allison Biggs Mark Brown Larry Ewing Stephanie Madsen Urbanus Masaku Steve Metcalf Paul Mungai Denise Rounds Karen Woolman	<u>Class of 2025</u> Brett Crane Elizabeth DeVore John Harper Jessica John-Bowman Jeanette Kern Jaclyn Metcalf Eric Olson Jacob Thompson Solomon Tsuma Faith Wambugu
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Currently Serving Deacons

<u>Class of 2023</u> Sheri Allen Keith Campbell Michael Homan Cindy Johnson Lucy Kamande Clint McQueen Dylan Seibert Ed Slier Julie Steiner Shannon Thomas	<u>Class of 2024</u> Tina Aruna Bette Cromer Sandy Curtis Quentin Franklin Carter Mathews Buddy Neal Valentine Ndunga Dan Richmond Grace Shelton Scott Swanson	<u>Class of 2025</u> Anita Anthony Tyler Bird Nancy Blocker Beryl Bolo Brandon Evans Jeremy Foon Nick McMillan Janet Mercer Gladys Njino Cissy Ssettimba
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Currently Serving Trustees

<u>Class of 2023</u> Todd Schuster Robert Pielsticker Amy Tingleaf	<u>Class of 2024</u> Steve Caldwell Jane Crain Pam Farris	<u>Class of 2025</u> Dr. John Frame Ken McQueen Barrett Powers
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FPC LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers.

Ephesians 4:11

Prayerfully fill out the form below by **Wednesday, May 15:**

E-mail nominees to: dschooley@firstchurchtulsa.org

Name of nominee: _____

Nominated by: _____

I nominate this person for service as an (circle one):

Elder

Deacon

Trustee

Nominating Committee

A. What specific strengths/gifts will this person bring to this position?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

B. Describe how this person has served Christ's purposes here at FPC or in the community.

Nominating Committee 2023: Co-Chair, Amy Russell, Co-Chair, Denise Rounds, Patrick Grogan, Gary Johnson, Becca Kibui, Jason Pugh, Carol Rowland, Spurgeon Wambugu, Laurie Winslow along with representatives from each officer board.