



# ***Discipleship: Catching God's Vision***

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

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**JULY 30, 2023  
11:00 AM  
STEPHENSON HALL  
*First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa  
Born by grace in 1885***

# ***Ninth Sunday after Pentecost***

*Stephenson Hall, 11:00 a.m.*

## **Words of Preparation**

That we are made in the image of God could and does mean many things; but the fact that the God in whose image we are made is specifically the triune God of love has repercussions that echo all through Scripture.

Made in the image of this God, we are created to delight in harmonious relationship, to love God, to love each other. Thus, Jesus taught us that the first and greatest commandment in the law is to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, and the second is to love your neighbor as yourself. That is what we are created for.

Michael Reeves, *Delighting in the Trinity*

## **Prelude**

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*

## **Welcome and Call to Worship**

Steve Wilson,  
Director of High School Ministries

## **Songs of Praise**

Come Thou Fount

Come, Thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace; streams of mercy never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues

above. Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it; mount of Thy redeeming love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by Thy help I'm come, and I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger wandering from the fold of God; He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be; let Thy grace Lord, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee. Prone to wander, Lord I feel it; prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart Lord, take and seal it; seal it for Thy courts above.

### Only a Holy God

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven? Who else could make every king bow down? Who else can whisper and darkness trembles? Only a Holy God.

What other beauty demands such praises? What other splendour outshines the sun? What other majesty rules with justice? Only a Holy God.

*Come and behold Him, the One and the Only. Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God. Come and worship the Holy God.*

What other glory consumes like fire? What other power can raise the dead? What other name remains undefeated? Only a Holy God. *Refrain*

Who else could rescue me from my failing? Who else would offer His only Son? Who else invites me to call Him Father? Only a Holy God. Only my Holy God. *Refrain*

**First Reading**

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Elder Amy Russell

## **Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden—cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, so that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen...(*in silence*)

## **Response to Confession**    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*

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, believe the good news! God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. In Jesus Christ there is forgiveness for all who call upon Him. **Alleluia, Amen!**

## **Affirmation of Faith**        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**

Psalm 150 (Praise the Lord)

You made the starry hosts. You traced the mountain peaks. You paint the evening skies with wonders. The earth, it is Your throne, from desert to the sea; all nature testifies Your splendor.

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Sing His greatness, all creation. Praise the Lord! Raise your voice! You heights and all you depths, from furthest east to west; let everything that has breath praise the Lord!*

You reached into the dust, in love Your Spirit breathed; You formed us in Your very likeness. To know Your wondrous works. To tell Your mighty deeds. To join the everlasting chorus. *Refrain*

Let symphonies resound. Let drums and choirs ring out. All heaven hear the sound of worship. Let every nation bring its honors to the King; a roar of harmonies eternal.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Sing His greatness all creation. Praise the Lord! Raise your voice! You heights and all you depths, from furthest east to west; you distant burning stars; all creatures near and far; from sky to sea to shore, sing out forevermore. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

## Second Reading

Genesis 1:26-31

## Sermon

Collaborators or Consumer? Created in God's Image

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27*

## 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

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*

## 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** Bob Biederman.

**The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Virginia R. and Thomas E. Matson, Beulah and George C. Matson, George C. Matson, Jr. and Barbara and Herbert Twaddle by the Thomas E. Matson family.

**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](http://firstchurchtulsa.org), text 405-276-4141 or by using the QR code below.



**Helping Hand Ministry** - As of June 30, 2023, Helping Hand Ministries have disbursed \$271,268 that helped 1,776 Tulsa County residents through a difficult time in their lives. If you would like to donate, please go to the *website helpinghandministry918.com*.

**Today! “Faith & Film” – An all-church, summer Sunday School class gathering at 9:30 a.m. in the library!** We’ll explore how faith intersects culture on the silver screen. In July, Dan Hutchinson and John Shelton consider popular movies and search out Christian themes that emerge.

- Today – Star Wars Series

In August, we will dive into Season 1 of The Chosen and review how scripture is messaged and depicted through this series. Pastors and lay teachers will lead our conversations in the Miller Library at 9:30 a.m.

Aug. 6	Episode 1 – I Have Called You by Name Episode 2 – Shabbat	Dr. Miller
Aug. 13	Episode 3 – Jesus Loves the Little Children Episode 4 – The Rock on Which It Is Built	Rev. Metcalf
Aug. 20	Episode 5 – The Wedding Gift Episode 6 – Indescribable Compassion	Elder Jacob Thompson
Aug. 27	Episode 7 – Invitations Episode 8 – I Am He	Elder Jacob Thompson
Sept. 3	Pilot – The Shepherd Closing Discussion of Entire Series	Rev. Hutchinson

**Dr. Miller's Summer Session on *Christian Apologetics* – today at 9:30 (and Wednesdays at 11:30) in E104.** We're reviewing Rebecca McLaughlin's book, *Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World's Largest Religion*. 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**

**Volunteers needed for Camp Sunshine** - Saturday, August 5, 11.00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Camp Loughridge. This annual event sponsored by the Board of Deacons, offers a day camp experience for children fighting cancer. Volunteers are needed; the minimum age to volunteer is 14. If you can spend a few hours helping to supervise an activity, assist with crafts or food, or help with set up or clean up, please sign up using this



QR code, clicking the link on the church's web calendar, or call Hannah Damron at 918-301-1039.



**Summer Backyard Bible Study** - Join 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](mailto: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 welcome to participate.

**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 the *Studies on 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.

### **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 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](mailto: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, Larry Osterhout, 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.

### **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](https://www.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](mailto: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](mailto:mandppeterson@msn.com) or Monte Prater at 918-605-9719/[monteprater@aol.com](mailto:monteprater@aol.com).

## COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

### **TODAY 7/30**

- 8:00 am      Worship: Kerr Chapel
- 8:30 am      Worship: Stephenson Hall
- 9:30 am      Christian Apologetics, led by Dr. Miller, E104  
Faith in Film, Miller Library  
Faith and Family, Prayer Room  
Morning Glory Class, B318  
Reflections, E103  
Shepherds, E203  
Sojourners, E204  
Westminster Class, Tower Room
- 11:00 am     Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall

### **Wednesday 8/2**

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

### **Saturday 8/5**

- 8:45 am      Before the Rooster Crows, E103