



Discipleship: Catching God's Vision

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

**SEPTEMBER 3, 2023
11:00 AM
STEPHENSON HALL
*First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa
Born by grace in 1885***

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Stephenson Hall, 11:00 a.m.

Words of Preparation

Just as the grain of wheat, unless it falls into the ground and dies, does not bring forth any fruit, so, also, unless the alabaster jar be broken, we cannot spread its fragrance.

Homilies of St. Jerome, Homily 84

Prelude

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.

Welcome and Call to Worship

Songs of Praise

Rejoice

Rejoice in the Lord now and always; sing it again we rejoice!
Delight in the love he has shown us; gratefully lift up your voice.
His gentleness among us will join our hearts with praise; we gather in his goodness, a family of grace.

With each breath he's given, Christ the Lord! In these times we live in, we will praise the Lord! Throughout every season I am sure we have every reason to praise the Lord!

Rejoice and be anxious for nothing, praying for all that you need. Come with a song of thanksgiving, lay your requests at his feet. His peace will fall upon us to guard our hearts and minds in Christ who reigns eternal, the Shepherd of our lives. *Refrain*

Rejoice in the Lord now and always, tell of the good he has done; worship the Lord to remember all of the joy yet to come. The hope that burns within us the dark cannot destroy; with praise that's never ending we say again rejoice! *Refrain*

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*

First Reading

1 Chronicles 21:18-26

Elder Eric Olson

Prayer of Confession

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, 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 East/West (Psalm 103)

Bless the Lord, O my soul; all that is within me bless his name. He forgives all our sin. He is slow to anger, full of grace.

As high as the heavens are up above, so is the greatness of His love. As far as the east is from the west, He removes our sin from us. Far as the east is from the west. Far as the east is from the west.

For the Lord knows our frame; short our days, from dust to dust we fade. But His love will remain. Merciful to those who fear His name. *Refrain*

The steadfast love of the Lord - from everlasting to everlasting.
The steadfast love of the Lord - from everlasting to everlasting.
The steadfast love of the Lord - from everlasting to everlasting.
The steadfast love of the Lord - from everlasting to everlasting.

Refrain

Gospel Reading

Mark 14:3-11

Sermon

Extravagant Giving: Wasteful or Worshipful? Rev. Estes
Why was the ointment wasted in this way? Mark 14:4

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

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*

Charge and Benediction

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.

A Congregational Meeting has been called by the Session and set for Sunday, September 17 immediately following the 11:00 service. The Nominating Committee will present a new slate of officers (elders, deacons, trustees) and the congregation will vote upon it.

Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to the Dr. B. P. Loughridge family.

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jeffrey Scott Steen by Frank and Leigh Ann Fore, Jerry and Shirley Steen and Whiteny and Tucker Steen.

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 Pilot – The Shepherd

Rev. Hutchinson

Closing Discussion of the Entire Series

The Pastor's Class: *Christian Apologetics* – today at 9:30 in E104.

Duff Points leads the class today on *Confronting Jesus*. Duff will also lead the Wednesday, September 6 class. Please note: the Wednesday class time is 11:30 a.m. E104.

Breakfast on Boston! – Next Sunday, 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.



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

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.



Seasons Women's Gatherings - Do you crave meaningful friendships that will last? Are you looking for deeper connections? Join us once a month, starting on September 11, to explore our relationship with Jesus as the ultimate model for authentic friendship. We will meet in the Miller Library on the second Monday of each month from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

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 E100. 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 ljestevens@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Wednesday Night Downtown

Wednesday Night Downtown begins on Wednesday, September 13, with dinner at 5:15 p.m. in Stephenson Hall. Class starts 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*.

Enrollment for our children's and youth choirs is now open! Children and youth from age 5 through high school will learn rich theology and Biblical truth through songs, hymns, and musicals. There will be opportunities for them to sing for the congregation and the Tulsa community by singing for worship and special events throughout the year.

First Church Choristers children's choir is open to children age 5 through 4 grade.



The **Celebration Singers** youth choir is open to students in grades 5 – 12.



Both choirs will meet on Sundays at 9:00 a.m., starting Sept. 17. Enrollment is required; for a full schedule of events and to enroll, scan the QR code for each choir.

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.

Ireland and Kenya Trip Reviews – Join us on Sunday, September 17 (Ireland) and Sunday, September 24 (Kenya) at 9:30 a.m. in Stephenson Hall as the trip leaders give us a review of the Ireland and Kenya trips.

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.



Inquirers Class – If you're interested in learning more about First Church, please join us on Sundays, September 24, October 1, 8 and 15 from 9:15 - 10:40 a.m. in the Miller Library. Registering for the class is very helpful; use the QR code below or contact Patricia Hall at phall@firstchurchtulsa.org or 918-301-1028.



Keith and Kristyn Getty and their band return to First Church on Monday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. for their ***Sing! An Irish Christmas*** concert tour!! Tickets are on sale now at www.firstchurchtulsa.org/Getty23. Adults are \$10 each; free tickets are available for children 17 and under, with the purchase of an adult ticket. Young adults 18 - 21 can attend free with an ID; an RSVP is required. Tickets are going fast, so get your tickets early!

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

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: Jeanette Anderson, 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, Lyle Proffitt, Helen Quiring, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Asa Smith, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, and Susan Waldie.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: Rosemary Priest, a member since 1997, died on August 24; B. P. Loughridge, a member since 2020, died on August 28.

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 9/3

- 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

Monday 9/4 – Labor Day, offices closed

Wednesday 9/6

- 11:30 am Pastor’s Study, E104

Saturday 9/9

- 8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103